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CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The paradox of India's woman politician

Be it veteran leader or newbie, there is the need to strike a balance between ambition and their identity as women

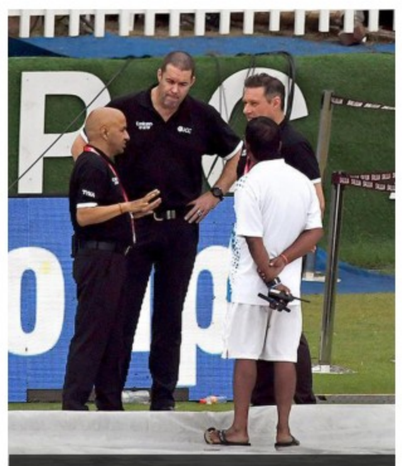
MAGAZINE » PAGE 1

Anura Dissanayake: Sri Lanka's symbol of change

PROFILES » PAGE 15

Two flights had a close shave over Mumbai skies, reveals probe

NEWS » PAGE 11



Rain washes out second day's play in Kanpur Test

SPORT » PAGE 17

Pakistan PM's criticism a travesty, says India in UN

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

Bhavika Mangalanandan, First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, speaks at the UN General Assembly on Friday. ANI

India on Friday termed Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) a "travesty". It said there could be "no compact with terrorism", and warned that acts of terror would be met with consequences.

"...This assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning – a country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime, has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN, Bhavika Mangalanandan, said, exercising India's Right of Reply during the UNGA debate.

Pakistan coveted Indian territory and had used terror to disrupt elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Ms. Mangalanandan said.

Accusing Pakistan of attacking India's financial capital, its marketplaces and pilgrimage routes, she said cross-border terror would "inevitably invite consequences".

"A reference has been made to some proposal of Strategic Restraint, there can be no compact with terrorism," she said.

In his speech, Mr. Sharif had said Pakistan would respond "most decisively" if India conducted operations across the Line of Control (LoC), accusing the Indian leadership of threatening to cross the LoC and take over Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

Hezbollah chief killed in Israeli strike in Lebanon

Hassan Nasrallah has 'joined his fellow martyrs', says the group; it's the most powerful target to be killed by Israel in weeks of intensified fighting; Israeli military says it carried out a precise strike

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during a rare public appearance in Beirut's southern suburbs in 2015. REUTERS

Lebanon's Hezbollah group confirmed on Saturday that its leader and one of its founders, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli air strike in Beirut the previous day.

A statement said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs". Hezbollah vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine".

Immediately after the official confirmation from Hezbollah, people started firing in the air in Beirut and other areas of the country, to mourn Nasrallah's death. Some were protesting that he was killed because of his support for the war in Gaza. "Wish it was our kids, not you, Sayyid!" said one woman, using an honorific title for Nasrallah, as she clutched her baby in the western city of Baabda.

Nasrallah, who led Hezbollah for over three decades, is by far the most powerful target to be killed by Israel in weeks of intensified fighting with Hezbollah. The Israeli military said it carried out a precise air strike on Friday while Hezbollah leadership were meeting at their headquarters in Dahiyeh, south of Beirut.

Iran announced Saturday that a prominent General in its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard sanctioned by the U.S. died in the same air strike. Abbas Nilforushan, 58, who the U.S. identified as the deputy commander for operations in the Guard, was killed Friday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Friday's strikes reportedly killed six persons and injured 91 in Beirut.

HASSAN'S LEGACY » PAGE 16
MORE REPORTS ON » PAGES 11 & 14

NEARBY

ADGP hits out at Kumaraswamy

BENGALURU
Stating that "false and malicious allegations and threats" have been made to deter the Lokayukta Special Investigation Team from functioning, Additional Director General of Police SIT, Lokayukta M. Chandrashekar has promised to work without fear or favour, in a letter to his colleagues. This came hours after Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy at a press conference made allegations against him. » PAGE 7

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

FIR against Nirmala over 'misuse' of electoral bond scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Tilak Nagar police on Saturday registered a first Information report (FIR) against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for allegedly committing irregularities and misusing the electoral bond scheme to extort money from companies using enforcement agencies.

Court directions

The FIR was filed based on court directions, charging the accused under sections 384 (punishment for extortion) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) read with 34 (acts done with common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Based on a private complaint filed by Adarsh R. Iyer, co-president of Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath (JSP), alleging criminal conspiracy and extortion, and compelling companies and other individuals through electoral bonds in favour of the BJP, the FIR named Ms. Sitharaman, Enforcement Directorate (ED), BJP Karnataka unit president B.Y. Vijayendra and senior party leader Nalin Kumar Kateel.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Factory fire

Raging blaze: Smoke billows after a fire broke out in a chemical godown of the electronics component factory of Tata Electronics in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, on Saturday. PTI (REPORT ON BUSINESS PAGE)

Udhayanidhi is Deputy CM; Senthilbalaji back in Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Udhayanidhi Stalin

The Cabinet reshuffle that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has been promising since his return from the U.S. was announced on Saturday.

A late-night release from the Raj Bhavan confirmed the elevation of the DMK's Youth Wing secretary and Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Udhayanidhi Stalin, as Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister.

V. Senthilbalaji, who was recently released on bail in a money-laundering case by the Supreme Court, also finds a place in the Council of Ministers.

The swearing-in will be held at the Raj Bhavan at 3.30 p.m. on Sunday.

The release said Mr. Udhayanidhi will be "allotted the portfolio of Planning and Development, in addition to his existing portfolios". Mr. Udhayanidhi is the third person to serve as Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. His father was the first. Mr. Stalin occupied the seat on May 29, 2009, under the Chief Ministership of M. Karunanidhi. In 2017, O. Panneerselvam became the Deputy Chief Minister under Edappadi K. Palaniswami after the death of Jayalalithaa.

The Chief Minister has also recommended that Mr. Senthilbalaji, Dr. Govi. Chezhiaan, R. Rajendran and S.M. Nasar be inducted in the Ministry, which has been accepted by Governor R.N. Ravi. Three Ministers have been dropped.

Sources in the government said the portfolios would be officially announced on Sunday.

With new scheme, sun shines on rooftop solar installations

Jacob Koshy
Mahesh Langa
NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

September 16 was a red-letter day for Jagshibhai Suthar, a resident of Gandhinagar in Gujarat. He had Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his rooftop admiring his newly installed solar installation.

"We have installed 3.24 kW (kilowatt) solar panels on the terrace and now our [electricity] bill has been reduced to zero. Additionally, I have received a credit of ₹248 in the bill," he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Suthar is a beneficiary of the PM Muft Bijli Solar Yojana (PMSY), a ₹75,000-crore, Centre-led scheme to install at least one crore rooftop solar installations (RTS) across India. The scheme is the latest iteration of a push by governments for at least two decades to coax more households to install such RTS.

Apart from encouraging use of fossil fuel-free electricity, more RTS means that fewer people are dependent on electricity distribution companies – which are in deep debt in many States – for their power needs.

The PMSY provides for a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40% of additional system costs for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity. The subsidy has been capped at 3 kW capacity. At current benchmark prices, this means a ₹30,000 subsidy for a 1 kW system, ₹60,000 for 2 kW systems, and ₹78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher.

As of August 2024, Gujarat leads the States in terms of installed rooftop solar capacity with 4,195 MW, followed by Maharashtra at 2,487 MW, and Rajasthan at 1,269 MW.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

BSF asking UIDAI to deactivate Aadhaar of undocumented migrants from Bangladesh

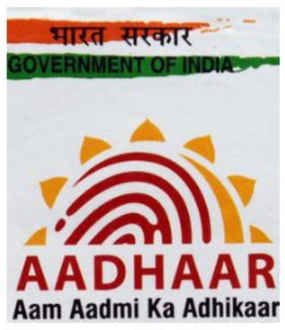
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

In a first, the Border Security Force (BSF) is writing to the authorities to cancel Aadhaar registration of Bangladeshi nationals who are apprehended along the eastern border while entering or leaving the country, officials said.

After a suspect is apprehended, the BSF informs the police and writes to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to deactivate his or her Aadhaar registration, a BSF official said.

A senior BSF official said that in May, they apprehended a Bangladeshi national who had been living in Chennai for nine years. "He was caught while trying to leave the country. We found an Aadhaar card on him. After informing the police, we wrote to the UIDAI to deactivate the card. This is being done to break the nexus of human traffickers and touts," said the official.

There are instances when suspected illegal migrants are apprehended in the border areas and they are already in possession of identity documents, including Aadhaar.



This measure will help break the nexus of human traffickers and touts, says BSF.

On September 11, an affidavit filed by the Union Home Ministry in the Jharkhand High Court stated that "BSF is approaching the concerned civil authorities for cancellation of Aadhaar card, PAN card, driving licence, voter card, etc., in respect of apprehended Bangladeshi nationals and some of the Aadhaar cards have been cancelled by UIDAI."

The official added that to avoid long legal cases, they have also been pushing back illegal migrants in coordination with Border Guards Bangladesh. "Registering a police case involves a long-drawn process. Even if convicted and after completion of jail sentence, the country may never accept the illegal migrants. If there are women and children, we convince the BGB to take them back without registering any case here," said the official.

The official added that the measures have been in place since March-April this year, before political changes were witnessed in the neighbouring country in August.

From 2018 to 2023, nearly 18,000 Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted by the BSF along the border, while 3,732 persons were caught in 2023.

Till July 31 this year, 1,973 Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended.

Hiding in plain sight: Visitors near the pillbox that was uncovered after beach erosion in Visakhapatnam.

Echoes of a forgotten maritime legacy

Pillboxes used during the Second World War, long buried under layers of sand, have resurfaced to offer a tangible glimpse into a less-known chapter of Visakhapatnam's maritime legacy

K. R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

As the monsoon batters the coastline, the sands of Visakhapatnam's beaches have once again shifted, revealing a piece of the city's forgotten history. Pillboxes used during the Second World War, long buried under layers of sand, have resurfaced, offering a tangible glimpse into a less-known chapter of the city's maritime legacy.

"These pillboxes, built during the height of the Second World War, were part of a strategic defence network to protect Visakhapatnam's shores from potential enemy invasions. These are equipped with loopholes through which defenders can fire weapons," says Edward Paul, a member of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Visakhapatnam chapter, who has documented the history of the city.

The most prominently visible one is at the R.K. Beach which was uncovered during beach erosion. The second one is at the Jalaripeta fishing colony within the city limits; but it lies buried under a heap of sand, garbage and apathy.

"The designs of the pillboxes were often compared to medicine containers made in the early 20th century to store pills; that is how the term 'pillbox' became popular," added Mr. Paul.

As one of India's most important naval bases with a deep natural harbour, the port city was seen as a key target during the war. Constructed by the British and positioned along the coastline, these fortifications were meant to guard the city's vital port against any threats from Axis forces, especially from Japanese submarines and aircraft.

The erosion caused by the annual monsoon has made these pillboxes visible to beach-goers, many of whom are unaware of their historical significance.

Even as environmental experts express their concern over the growing beach erosion in Visakhapatnam due to changing weather patterns, it has unintentionally brought these wartime relics back into the public eye.

While the sea may reclaim the sand and hide these pillboxes again, their legacy and the stories remain an enduring chapter in the city's maritime history.

(Text: Nivedita Ganguly)

Tactical post: Pillboxes were generally camouflaged against the landscape to hide the occupants from enemy view.

Holding secrets: Waves crash into the Visakhapatnam coast under the influence of a deep depression during a high tide.

Unseen guards: An opening of the pillbox that would allow soldiers to fire at attacking enemies during the Second World War.

Passengers miffed as BMTC airport buses stop only at designated points

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Passengers travelling on the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) airport buses are miffed because the buses no longer stop at convenient locations as a request stop for them to alight.

Previously, these buses allowed passengers to alight wherever they wanted, which was especially helpful for those carrying heavy luggage. Now, however, the buses stop only at designated stops, which many passengers find inconvenient.

This has particularly affected long-term users of the service. Prashitha Kumar, a regular passenger of the BMTC's Vayu Vajra airport buses from Bannerghatta Road for the past five years, said, "Earlier, the bus used to stop wherever I wanted to get down. I always requested the conductor to stop near my apartment, and they would comply, which made it easier for me to carry my luggage. But in the last two months, the crew has refused my requests, stating they can only stop at the bus stop," she said.

BMTC runs Vayu Vajra buses between Kempegowda International Airport and several key locations in Bengaluru.

BMTC airport service

- **140** schedules
- **17** routes
- **970** trips daily

On average, **16,000** to **18,000** passengers take airport buses every day

Ms. Prashitha resides near Bilekahalli on Bannerghatta Road, and the nearest designated bus stop is about 800 metres from her apartment. "It's very inconvenient. After a long flight, walking that distance with heavy luggage is a hassle," she added.

Tejaswini K.H., a resident of Jayanagar and another frequent user of the BMTC airport bus service, said, "The previous arrangement was far more convenient, especially when you're carrying multiple bags. Now, I have to plan my exit and take a cab from the bus stop, which not only increases my expenses but also wastes time."

Another passenger, Ravi Prasad, who lives in HSR Layout and frequently travels for work, said not giving request stops in airport buses disrupts the seamless experience passengers once enjoyed. "The bus used to drop me near my home, which was incredibly convenient, but now, I have to walk nearly a kilometre with my suitcase. I don't understand why this change was necessary," he said.

BMTC clarifies

BMTC officials said there is no specific rule that mandates airport buses to stop wherever passengers request to alight. "However, we have given an oral directive allowing the crew to use their discretion and provide request stops on humanitarian grounds," an official said. "Usually, request stops are more common when the bus is coming back from the airport because passengers have luggage. On the way to the airport, passengers are picked up only at designated bus stops. However, the decision to allow a request stop depends on the crew and the situation," the official added.

The BMTC currently operates 140 airport bus schedules, covering 17 routes and running 970 trips daily. On average, these buses carry between 16,000 and 18,000 passengers every day.

Meanwhile, in a bid to modernise its fleet and improve passenger comfort, the BMTC is preparing to introduce air-conditioned electric buses on its routes. OHM Global Mobility, a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland, has been awarded the contract to supply 320 electric buses to the BMTC. These buses will replace the older Volvo models currently operating on the Vajra and Vayu Vajra airport routes.

The new fleet of buses will feature state-of-the-art facilities, including retractable ramps to assist passengers with physical impairments. Each low-floor bus will be 13-m long, making it spacious and more comfortable for airport travellers.

Woman killed, driver injured as lorry rams autorickshaw

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old woman was killed on the spot and an autorickshaw driver was injured when a lorry crashed into the autorickshaw at Police Thimmaiah Junction in the early hours of Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Shalini, a native of Kerala. The injured driver, Imran, is being treated in a hospital.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 4 a.m. when Shalini, a resident of Chinnappa Garden, booked the autorickshaw through an app and was heading to Majestic.

The lorry driver, heading towards Hebbal, allegedly jumped the signal and rammed into the autorickshaw. Due to the impact, the vehicle was mangled and Shalini was killed on the spot.

The lorry driver abandoned the vehicle a few yards away from the scene of the accident and fled.

Driver traced

The Cubbon Park traffic police later tracked down the driver, identified as Manu from Hassan. Manu told the police that he had dozed off while driving, leading to the accident. He was not drunk and has been booked for death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving, a police officer said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-AUCTION

The undersigned, on behalf of President of India, invites Bidders to participate in E-Auctions for contracts of SLRs, Rail coach restaurant as per following schedule.

Sl. No.	E-Auction Catalogue No.	Category/ Sub-Category	Date & Time of E-Auctioning
1	SLR-12786-22818	PARCEL/SLR	04.10.2024 & 12:00 Hrs
2	MYS-MS-RCR-116	MSS/Rail Coach Restaurant	07.10.2024 & 11 :30 Hrs
3	MYS-SLR-11312	PARCEL/SLR	10.10.2024 & 15.00 Hrs
4	MYS-15-TRAINS-S	PARCEL/SLR	09.10.2024 & 12.00 Hrs

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Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru

PUB/463/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **MR. LOKESH GOWDA** son of Chikkavenkatappa, residing at No.8, 3rd main Road, Vayalikaval, Bangalore – 560003, he having acquired title to the same under a Gift deed dated 20.05.2011 registered as Document No.CKB-1-00624/2011-12, Book-I, stored in C.D. No.CKBD65, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Devanahalli and the Will dated 23.09.2011 executed by Smt. Rukminiyamma.

All persons/banks/companies/firms/financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with all the documents relating to such claim within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of dry agricultural land situated in **Doddamarali Village,** Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and the properties bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent	Boundaries			
			East By	West By	North By	South By
1.	76/1	5 Acres - 37 Guntas	Sambar Tree Boundary	Property bearing Sy Nos. 75 & 78	Property bearing Sy Nos. 74 & 75	Property of Sy No. 76/2
2.	76/2	5 Acres - 15 Guntas less 15G karab	Sambar Tree Boundary	Property bearing Sy Nos. 77 & 78	Property bearing Sy Nos. 76/1 & 75	Hosahalli Border and Sambar Tree Border

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto,
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 29.09.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that my client intends to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners **1. SRI. K.C. VENKATESH,** residing at Kuppahalli, Nandi Post, Chikkaballapura Taluk & district, **2. SRI. K.C. MUNIYAPPA,** residing at No. 86/84, Mathru Layout, Kogilu, Bengaluru-560064, **3. SRI. K.C. MURALI,** residing at No. 201/2, Kogilu Village, near Annapoorneshwari Temple, Yelahanka, Bengaluru all sons of Chikkavenkatarayappa **4. SMT. PADMAJA SHANKAR,** daughter of Sri.M.V. Narayanaswamy, residing at No. 168, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru-560001, they having acquired title to the same under the Will dated 23.09.2011 executed by Smt. Rukminiyamma.

All persons/banks/companies/firms/financial institutions having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described, are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with all the documents relating to such claim within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim of any party shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of dry agricultural land situated in **Doddamarali Village,** Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District and the properties bounded as follows:

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent	Boundaries			
			East By	West By	North By	South By
1.	75/1	29 Guntas	Property of Sy No. 75/2	Property of Sy No. 78	Property of Sy No. 74	Property of Sy No. 76
2.	75/2	29 Guntas	Property of Sy No. 75/3	Property of Sy No. 75/1	Property of Sy No. 74	Property of Sy No. 76
3.	75/3	30 Guntas	Property of Sy No. 75/4	Property of Sy No. 75/2	Property of Sy No. 74	Property of Sy No. 76
4.	75/4	2 Acres	Property of Sy No. 76	Property of Sy No. 75/3	Property of Sy No. 74	Property of Sy No. 76

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto,
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 29.09.2024

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9019870803,9403566219,8007765693,9481236511

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients intend to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners: **(a)Sri.P.N.DIVAKAR also known as DIVAKAR HEBBAR; (b)Smt.K.GEETHA BHAT; (a & b are children of late Narayana Hebbar); (c)Smt.KUSUMA W/o late Srinivasa Hebbar & (d)Sri.SHASHANK S/o late Srinivasa Hebbar,** all are residing at: No.452, 3rd Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore–560027.

Apart from the aforesaid owners, if any other person/s, have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, **within 14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the commercial property bearing **(i) Municipal Nos.105/108, 106 & 107 (old Nos.115, 115/2 & 115/4) PID Nos.30-28-105/108, 30-28-106 & 30-28-107,** respectively, and **(ii) Municipal No.13 (old No.3/1) PID No.30-8-13,** in all measuring East to West on the Northern side (43'6"+41')/2 ft and on the Southern side 84'6" and North to South on the Eastern side 123'6" and on the Western side 84'6", totally measuring 8836.75 Sq.ft, with buildings thereon, situated at **Police Road,** Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property belonging to Venkatappa and others
West by : Bhagavanta Rao's house and the property belonging to Gundappa
North by : Police Road
South by : Venkatachalaiah Lane

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTEMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
Telephone House, Rajabhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001

TRC No.152/2020 IN O.A.No.119/2017 Date: 23.09.2024

PROCLAMATION OF SALE - CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
UNDER RULES 38,52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT,1961 READ WITH SEC 25 AND 29 OF RD&B ACT, 1993.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., ... Certificate Holder Bank

Vs

1. **IPAC Paper Boards (India) Pvt Ltd.,** Office at 5th KM, Bathalagundu Road, Pithalaipatty Post, Dindugul 624001, Tamilnadu. **Represented by Director B. Vikram**
2. **Mr.B.Vikram,** 1-267, Pillaiyar Natham Taluk – Athoor, Dindugul – 624 002, Tamilnadu
3. **Mr.Balaraman,** No.559 RMV 2nd Stage, New BEL Road, Bengaluru 560 092
4. **Mr.Dhamodharan,** No.5, Bathalagundu Road, Pithalaipatty Post, Dindugul-624 001 Tamilnadu .... Certificate Debtors

The under mentioned property will be sold on "as is and where is / on what it is / no complaint" basis by online e-auction through website www.foreclosureindia.com for recovery of a sum ₹ **12,51,70,354.50** (Rupees Twelve Crores Fifty One Lakhs Seventy Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Four and Paise Fifty Only) along with further interest and cost payable as per Recovery Certificate, after deducting the amounts already recovered if any, from M/s. IPAC Paper Boards (India) Pvt Ltd., & 3 others to M/s. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., As per the Recovery Certificate No.152/2020 dated 14.01.2020 forwarded by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal II, Bengaluru under the provision of sub-Section (22) of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act. 1993 (Act 51 of 1993) and a Notice of Demand dated 05.03.2020 subsequently issued by the Learned Recovery Officer of Debt Recovery Tribunal II, Bengaluru. As on 31.08.2024 a sum of ₹ **24,70,12,413/-** (Rupees Twenty Four Crores Seventy Lakhs Twelve Thousand Four Hundred and Thirteen Only) payable by CDs excluding costs and interest from 01.09.2024, expenses incurred / to be incurred in the recovery proceeding with further interest payable as per DRC till realization.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being **agricultural dry land measuring an extent of 5 Acres 06 Guntas** comprised in Sy. No.36 and 37 of **Medi Agrahara Village, Yelakhanka Hubli, Bengaluru North Taluk** and bounded on the: Towards East by : Land owned by Lakshman Singh, Towards West by : Land owned by N.K. Murthy, Towards North by : Road, Towards South by : Land owned by Smt.Devikarani Maharaja Together with all its present and future superstructures thereon.

(As per order passed by Dy. Commissioner for Recovery of ₹ **14,18,78,649/-** towards arrears of property Tax)

Date and time of E-Auction	**06.11.2024 (Wednesday) between 11.00 hrs and 12. Hrs with auto time extension of 3 minutes each till sale is concluded**
Upset Price	₹ **27,00,00,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Seven Crores only)
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ **2,70,00,000/-** (Rupees Two Crores Seventy Lakhs only)
Last date for submission of Bid form with EMD	**04.11.2024 (Monday) by 4.00 p.m through RTGS/NEFT Funds transfer to be credited to E-auction collection Account No.0887201002369 with Canara Bank, Lavelle Road Branch, IFSC Code No.CNRB0000887**
Bid increment Amount	₹ **5,00,000/-** (Rupees Five Lakhs Only)

The other details about the above auction and the E-auction bid form and declaration form and detailed Terms and conditions are available in the website: **www.foreclosureindia.com.**

Property details if any, shall be obtained from The Associate Vice President of **Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.,** Asset Reconstruction Division, 5th Floor, Samson Towers, No.402-L, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008, Contact No.**99620 41292** and for assistance e-auction procedure **Contact Mr.Jayaprakash Reddy, M/s.Foreclosure India Mobile Nos. 81420 00809 & 81420 00066 www.foreclosureindia.com e-mail Id: info@bankauctions.in**

(RECOVERY OFFICER - 2)
DRT-2, BENGALURU

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल,
सरायकेला–खरसावॉ ।

"स्थगन सूचना"

पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, सरायकेला–खरसावॉ द्वारा आमंत्रित Tender Reference No. RCD/SERAIKELLA/05 दिनांक 23.09.2024 तथा पी०आर० संख्या–PR 336804 (Road) 24-25 (D) द्वारा प्रकाशित Very Short-Term e-Procurement Notice को अपरिहार्य कारणों से स्थगित किया जाता है ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल,
सरायकेला–खरसावॉ ।

PR 337528 Road(24-25)D

VIJAYANAGARA SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYA UNIVERSITY , BALLARI. Jnanasagara Campus, Vinayakanagar, Cantonment, Ballari-583105
Phone: 08392-242703 Fax:08392-242097

ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ವಿಶ್ರೀಕೃವಿಬ/ವಿಮವಿ/ಸ್ನಾತಕೋತ್ತರ ಪದವಿ ಪ್ರವೇಶಾತಿ/2024–25/ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.09.2024

Admission Notification for Post Graduate Programmes/ Courses for the Academic Year 2024-25

Applications are invited for various Post Graduate Programmes/Courses (M.A, M.Sc, MSW, MLISc, M.Tech, LLM, M.Com, M.Ed, M.P.Ed & PG Diploma in Yoga offered at Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Jnana Sagara (Main Campus), Ballari, PG Centers at Nandihalli(Sandur) PG Center at Harapanahalli and University Government/Private affiliated colleges for the Academic Year 2024-25 through UUCMS. Eligible candidates desirous of seeking admission to First Year Post Graduate Programmes/Courses may apply online on or before Date: 19.10.2024. The candidates are informed to visit official website of the university www.vskub.ac.in for detailed information relating to admission.

Note: Offline applications will not be considered. Admission will be considered only through UUCMS Online Portal. https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in/Login/Index

Sd/- REGISTRAR, V.S.K. University, Ballari-583105
DIPR/Ballari/484/KSMCA/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

As per Narayana Nethralaya Hospital Rajajinagar Branch Retention policy of Medical Records has been revised. The paper copies of older medical records of Outpatient and Inpatient last seen before 31 Dec 2019 bearing Registration No. From 1385587 to 1465292 the files shall be discarded. Interested person can collect the copy of the records from Medical Records department, as per details given below:

Request for file shall be made by patient only. In case the patient is minor or not in a condition to receive records, the guardian / authorized nominee with an authorization letter and ID proof can collect a copy of records .Post request the file shall be retrieved within 72 working hours and handed over to the concerned. The files can be requested and collected from Monday- Saturday between 10.00am to 4.00pm, on or before 31 Dec 2024

Note: Files of MLC (Medico legal cases) and trauma related cases shall not be given.

Bring any one of the required documents: Aadhar Card, Voter ID, Driving License, Ration Card, Pan Card, Passport and other government valid ID proof.

Chief Operating Officer,
Narayana Nethralaya Hospital ,
Rajajinagar,
Bengaluru-560010.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JABIULLA M B, Son of Sri. Buden Sab MS, Aged-about 36 years, Residing at No. 315, DS MAX Sage, KRC Road, Near Visthar, Ashirwad Nagar, Sonam Layout, Kothanur, Bengaluru 560 077 have changed my name to **LAKSHMIDHARA M.B.** vide affidavit dated: 28.09.2024 before Advocate and Notary S.R. Paramashivaiah, Bengaluru.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

No.B/C.518/Train Services/09/2024
Dated 24.09.2024

Station Development work at Bengaluru Cantonment is taken up for a period of 92 days from 20.09.2024 to 20.12.2024. Stoppage of the trains are eliminated at Bengaluru Cantonment station during the said period. Passengers are requested to check with 139 or at the station for further details.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/465/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No: 20UBL 2024-25
dated 23.09.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tender for the following works.

Sl No.	Item of work	Approx.Value
1	Various S&T works inconnection with Engineering Works of Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Central/Hubballi Section Sub Work-1to Sub Work-15	Rs. 97,45,508.63

Sl No.	Item of work	Approx.Value
2	Repairing Contract for Walkie Talkie sets and VHF 25 Watt Base Stations of Kenwood and Motorola make over Hubballi Division. (For a period of two years).	Rs. 9,89,208.30

Last date of submission of bids:
Upto 11.00 Hrs on 30.09.2024

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Hubballi

PUB/473/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. 565/STBA/09/2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at the following Railway Station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for the period as mentioned against the station.

Sl of	Name of Station	Station Category	Period Contract
1	Malleshwaram	NSG-5	3 years
2	Kolar	NSG-6	

Date and time of submission of application:
From 10.00 Hrs to 15:00 Hrs of 30.10.2024

For details log on :
www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/464/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

APPLICATION NOTIFICATION N0.565/ ATVM Facilitator/09/2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites invites sealed applications from Retired Railway Employees/General Public for Engagement as ATVM facilitator at the following Railway Station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through ATVM machines on recharge bonus basis for the period upto 31.03.2025.

Name of Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancies
Sir M Vishweshwaraya Terminal Bengaluru	NSG-2	3

Date and time of submission of application:
From 10.00 Hrs to 15:00 Hrs of 15.10.2024

For details log on :
www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/462/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that my client **Sri. GNANAVEL SUNDARAMOORTHY** resident of No. 18B, Flat No. S-1, Second Floor, White Rose Layout, Abhayadhama Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, intends to purchase schedule property mentioned hereunder from its present owners i.e., **Sri. ARAVINDA B.N** and **Smt. PARIMALA DEVI** both have represented that they are absolute owners of the schedule property and they have not entered into any agreement of sale or sort of arrangement with any person/s and apart from them there are no other person/s having any sort of right, title, interest, or claim over the schedule property. Any General Public or person/s or anybody, Financial Institution/s, Bank/s (except HSBC Bank, M.G. Road Branch, Bengaluru), or Statutory Body/ies. asserting any charge, lien, right, title, agreement, interest, or claim on the Schedule Property in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objection to such agreement and sale in favour of my client should lodge his/her/their/its objections or claims with supporting documents on or before 13.10.2024 falling which my client will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property and no claims shall be entertained thereafter and the same shall not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Apartment bearing No. 103 (FF-003), with three bed rooms measuring 1444 Sq.Ft of super built up area situated on first floor along with one covered car parking in basement at **"NESTCON AISHWARYA"** constructed on property bearing old Sy.No. 1, New Sy.No.3, Old khata No. 797/123 and 1-123, New Khata No. 1/123 situated at Pattanduru Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, erstwhile Bengaluru South Taluk, now Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru.

MANJUNATHA SREEDHARA HEGDE,
B.Com, LL.B, Advocate
No.33, 4th Floor, 13th Cross, Near Renuka Yallamma Temple, 4th Main, BSK III Stage, Shreenivasanagara, Bengaluru 560085.
Mobile No. 9480136368
Bengaluru, Date : 29.09.2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

APPLICATION NOTIFICATION N0.565/ ATVM Facilitator/09/2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites invites sealed applications from Retired Railway Employees/General Public for Engagement as ATVM facilitator at the following Railway Station over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through ATVM machines on recharge bonus basis for the period upto 31.03.2025.

Name of Station	Station Category	No. of Vacancies
Sir M Vishweshwaraya Terminal Bengaluru	NSG-2	3

Date and time of submission of application:
From 10.00 Hrs to 15:00 Hrs of 15.10.2024

For details log on :
www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/462/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

ZOO AUTHORITY OF KARNATAKA
Office of The Executive Director & Deputy Conservator of Forests, ShriAtalBihari Vajpayee Zoological Park, Kamalapur
HosapeteTqVijayanagarDist, Karnataka State
Email: eddcfabvzp81@gmail.com Tel No: 08394-295289

Tender No: ABVZPK/e-Tender/Outsource/01/2024-25
Dated: 27.09.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Member Secretary, Executive Director and Deputy Conservator of Forest Department of Zoo Authority of Karnataka (ZAK) has published Tender notification for Outsourcing the staff for a period of one year at ShriAtalBihari Vajpayee Zoological Park, Kamalapura Conditions & regulations.

Indent No: ZAK/2024-25/SE0033/CALL-2. **Estimated Cost (in Rupees):** Rs.1,06,98,383.00. **EMD (in Rupees):** Rs.5,34,920.00

Tender shall be submitted in e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Dept.selection: Zoo Authority) last date for submission of tender is **05.10.2024** within **4.30 PM**. Opening of Technical bid on **07.10.2024** at **11.30 AM** and Financial bid on **09.10.2024** at **11.35 AM** Respectively.

More details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during office hours. Any amendment of modifications in tender notification will be published on e-procurement portal.

SD/- Executive Director & Deputy Conservator of Forest, AtalBihari Vajpayee Zoological Park KamalapuraHosapeteTq, Vijayanagar Dist.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2024-25/KSMCA/RO No/291

Safe and sound: The interior of the pillbox offered a secure space for soldiers to defend the coast from enemy attacks.

Traces of the past: An aerial view of the Visakhapatnam beach where a section of a pillbox can be seen near the waves.

Giving way: Rocks are exposed at the eroded beach in Visakhapatnam.

Tip of the iceberg: The eroded beach reveals a portion of the pillbox.

Endurance test: Waves lash a pillbox on a stormy night, one of many endured by the structure.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, SEP. 29		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:11
RISE	03:22	SET 16:12
MONDAY, SEP. 30		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:10
RISE	04:09	SET 16:48
TUESDAY, OCT. 01		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:09
RISE	04:55	SET 17:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortabe. Night also will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Defence Ministry agrees to hand over land for road-widening project

Road from Lower Agaram to Sarjapur to be widened; Shivakumar says the project will help reduce travel time from M.G. Road to Bellandur from one hour to five – eight minutes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Defence Ministry has agreed to hand over 12.34 acres to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to widen the road from Lower Agaram to Sarjapur in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, announced on Saturday. This expected to drastically reduce travel time from M.G. Road to Bellandur.

Addressing the media after holding discussions with Lieutenant General Basant Kumar Repswal, Commandant of the ASC Centre and College, here, Mr. Shivakumar said the Defence Ministry has agreed to hand over 12.34 acres to the BBMP and has given in-principle consent to hand over another 10.77 acres to widen the road from Lower Agaram to Sarjapur, which would reduce travel time from M.G. Road to Bellandur from one hour to five – eight minutes.

Lieutenant General Basant Kumar Repswal, Commandant of the ASC Centre and College, was felicitated by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Saturday.

"The Chief Minister and I had submitted our request to the Union Defence Minister. The Defence Minister has agreed to our request and has agreed to hand over about 22 acres for the road widening," Mr. Shivakumar said.

"We have already called for a tender for the first stretch of 3.5 km at a cost of ₹35 crore. Once the Defence Ministry hands over the remaining 10.77 acres of land, it would ease traffic from the city centre to the IT hub. Lieutenant General Repswal, who helped us close this arrangement, is retiring on September 30 and hence we invited him to the Vidhana Soudha to felicitate him," he said.

This project would greatly help the citizens of Bengaluru, especially those in Bengaluru East, the Minister said. "As a Bengaluru Development Minister, I used to get eight to ten emails a day on traffic issues in East Bengaluru. In view of this, I had inspected the traffic issues in the area. Widening of the road with the help of the Defence Ministry would significantly ease traffic in this area," he explained

The government has submitted an appeal to the Defence Ministry for two acres for a tunnel near Military Dairy Farm near Hebbal, he said. Asked what the Defence Ministry had sought in return for the handing over of the defence land, he said, "The Defence Ministry has asked for certain basic amenities in certain areas in return for the land and we will fulfil that commitment."

Private firm employee becomes victim of 'digital arrest', loses ₹5.4 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old employee of a private firm from Indiranagar here became the latest victim of a "digital arrest" where a gang posing as Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and Mumbai crime branch officials blackmailed her with a fake case and extorted ₹5.4 lakh which was part of the insurance money she had received after the death of her father.

The accused targeted the victim using Skype and WhatsApp calls, holding her "digitally arrested" for over 24 hours until she shared her bank details.

Blackmailed

The gang managed to access her personal data and blackmailed her into performing humiliating acts, including dancing for them via video, while subjecting her to body shaming, said the police.

The amount, which had been part of the insurance settlement intended to help her family recover financially, was transferred online after threatening her with arrest and legal procedure.

The trauma caused by this ordeal has left the victim devastated, with the psychological toll of the abuse compounded by the emotional distress of losing a significant sum meant for her future security, said the police.

In her complaint, the victim said she received a call on Wednesday and the caller introduced himself as an officer with the TRAI. The caller informed her mobile number would get deactivated within two hours as they found other numbers in her name that were being used for illegal activities and a complaint had been filed with the Mumbai crime branch.

Before the victim could recover from the shock, she received a WhatsApp call from a man posing as a Mumbai police officer informing her that her Aadhaar card had been used to take multiple illegal bank accounts that are being used for money laundering and human trafficking.

The harassment continued as she was threatened with a forged CBI notice consenting to a confidentiality agreement not to reveal about the case with anyone otherwise she would be arrested or have to be in "self custody" until the inquiry is completed.

One of the accused who identified himself as Milind Bharambe, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mumbai crime branch, told her she was kept under constant surveillance and shared an RBI acknowledgement letter stating that they had approved the petition for "priority investigation and financial verification". They forced the victim to transfer the money online to their account for "verification", claiming that it would be reverted within 30 minutes.

Forced to dance

"During this entire surveillance, there were instances where they harassed me with comments like, 'Can you show me some moves?' asking me if I can dance. There were comments made about my appearance in the middle of the surveillance," she said.

The accused also allegedly accessed her messages and call records and made her share the screenshots with them.

The cybercrime police are now trying to track down the accused through the money transactions and the phone numbers they had used.

"We have created awareness on such incidents in print, electronic and social media, radio, and even in movie theatres warning people not to entertain unknown calls. But unfortunately, more and more educated and working-class people are becoming victims and losing their life savings," a police officer said.

Vocal concert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sapthak will present a vocal concert by Krishnendra Samarth on Sunday, September 29. Roopak Kallurkar will accompany him on the tabla, and Tejas Katoti on the harmonium. Following the concert, Aravindkumar Azad will present a tabla performance accompanied by Soorya Upadhyaya on the harmonium. The programme will be held at the Indian Institute of World Culture, B.P. Wadia Road, Basavanagudi at 5.30 p.m.

Bomb threat to star hotel turns out to be hoax

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taj West End hotel situated on Racecourse Road received a bomb threat mail, leading to panic on Saturday. However, it was soon declared to be a hoax after the police checked the premises.

The front desk staff alerted the High Grounds police who rushed to the spot along with the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) and conducted a detailed search before declaring it as a hoax.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central division, H.T. Shekhar said, "A bomb threat e-mail was received by the staff of Taj West End hotel. The BDDS checked the premises and found it to be a hoax threat email."

The police have registered a complaint for further investigation, he said.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

K-RERA publishes list of default and lapsed projects

It includes BDA's Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout; the list has been a long-standing demand of homebuyers, who say it will help them make an informed choice

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

After many years of insistence by activists fighting for homebuyers, Real Estate Regulatory Authority - Karnataka (K-RERA) has for the first time published the list of lapsed and default projects on its website. The list carries a message to homebuyers: "The proposed project completion date for this project is expired. The buyers may take an informed decision accordingly."

Those projects that have not renewed their registration before the deadline when they were to be completed, are designated as lapsed projects. "As on date, there are 2,404 of them. These projects should have got an extension before their deadline for completion," said Rakesh Singh, Chairman, K-RERA.

The authority has been issuing notices to lapsed projects summoning the promoters to explain the delay and seek an extension. However, promoters of five projects, including the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, have not even replied to these notices nor uploaded quarterly reports of the ongoing works to the authority. They are categorised as default projects, Mr. Singh explained.

According to K-RERA website, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout project was approved on May 18, 2018 with a deadline of December 31, 2021 for completion. FILE PHOTO

Welcoming the K-RERA's move to publish the list, M.S. Shankar, convener, Forum for People's Collective Efforts, said the number of lapsed and default projects accounts for nearly 35% of the total registered projects (6,990), which he argued showed lax implementation of the RERA law and rules in Karnataka.

"Essentially, this shows that K-RERA authorities do not have effective control over even registered projects to ensure their completion within the deadline. K-RERA must go a step ahead, conduct site inspections of all these projects, probe them and publish action taken reports. As per the RERA Act, 2016, the authority can recommend to the government to revoke the project's registration, and let the competent authority or association of allottees complete the remaining work. Either K-RERA has not taken any such action on lapsed and default projects till date, or there has been no transparency over the same," he said.

Deadline

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout developed by the BDA has been listed as a "default project" on the K-RERA website. According to the website, the BDA applied for registration of the project on September 28, 2017 and the project was approved on May 18, 2018 with a deadline for completion by December 31, 2021.

Not only has the BDA not yet completed civil works in the layout, it has neither applied for an extension with K-RERA nor uploaded quarterly progress reports on the K-RERA website. A.S. Surya Kiran, joint secretary, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum, an association of allottees, said the forum had written to the BDA in March 2024 flagging the issue of BDA officials not filing quarterly reports to K-RERA.

"It has been nearly three years since the deadline for the development of the layout ended as per K-RERA. But even as the BDA often claims that 80% of the civil works have been completed, the ground reality is that the civic amenities are not to the level that any of the allottees can go and build a house there. None of the roads are asphalted. Even the drainage system is not up to the mark. Only a handful of allottees have shifted to the layout," he said.

H.R. Shantharajanna, Member (Engineering), BDA, said the civil works in the layout were on in full swing. "In private projects, developers usually have possession of the land before they start the project. But all BDA layouts, including Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, are plagued by litigation over land acquisition, which is a major hurdle to carry out civil works," he said, explaining the delay in civil works. He blamed technical glitches in the K-RERA website for not filing quarterly reports.

Woman who gave contract to gang to rob ex-fiance's mobile phone held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bellandur police have cracked a mobile phone robbery case and arrested a 29-year-old software engineer who had allegedly paid a gang to rob the phone of her ex-fiance.

The accused, Shruthi, according to the police, paid ₹1.15 lakh to Manoj, a handyman, to rob the mobile phone of her ex-fiance Vamshikrishna, 29, a private firm employee, and destroy it as contained her private videos. The accused was engaged to Vamshikrishna and the duo was supposed to get married soon. However, Shruthi had confessed about her previous affair during a recent conversation, which irked Vamshikrishna and he broke up with her, said the police.

Plan hatched

As Vamshikrishna had private videos of the accused, she decided to erase them and hatched a plan to rob the phone.

As per the plan, the accused contacted Manoj, who had come to work in her house, and offered him ₹1.15 lakh for the job. Manoj roped in three of his associates – Venkatesh, Suresh, and Honnappa – and hired a cab for the job. As per the plan, Shruthi had called Vamshikrishna for a talk near a park at Bellandur and Manoj and his associates, who knew about the location, confronted him and robbed his phone and laptop to make it look like a robbery. While Vamshikrishna was baffled by the sudden attack, the accused returned, handed over his laptop bag and fled.

Shruthi discouraged Vamshikrishna from filing a complaint, but he was adamant and approached the Bellandur police. Shurthi allegedly failed to cooperate with the police during the questioning and tried to misguide them, which led the police to suspect her role.

She did not want her name in the case and refused to give a statement before the police.

As the accused had returned the laptop bag and escaped with the phone, the police started suspecting something fishy in the entire incident.

The police managed to track down the cab which the accused used and with the help of payment details, the accused were arrested.

A detailed questioning of Manoj and his associates exposed the role of Shruthi and the police arrested her. The police are on the lookout for the phone which the accused had thrown into the lake at Bellandur.

Mahisha Dasara to be restricted to Town Hall

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The city police have clamped prohibitory orders under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita in areas coming under the jurisdiction of Mysuru city Police Commissionerate, including Chamundi Hills, till 6 a.m. on Monday.

The orders are in place to restrict Mahisha Mandalothsava or Mahisha Dasara celebrations slated for Sunday, to Town Hall which is the venue for the event and has been exempted from the prohibitory orders.

College hosts earth festival

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BNM Institute of Technology and Heritage Trust, Bengaluru, jointly organised an earth festival on Saturdayto highlight the interconnection between man and nature.

Saswati Mishra, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Vigilance), was the chief guest. Praveen Bhargav, managing trustee, Wildlife First, was the keynote speaker.

During the event, seven individuals who have made significant contributions to environmental protection were conferred with the title 'Prakruthi Mithra'. They are Vivek S., range forest officer, Ramanagara; Revanasiddayya B. Hiremath, range forest officer, Shikaripur, Shivamogga; C. Prabhuswamy, deputy range forest officer, Kollegal; Sampath R., deputy range forest officer, Muthodi; Dileep Kumar S., forest patrol warden, Channapatna; Shankar Rao, driver, Hanur division, and Sunil Dugar of the Animal Welfare Association.

Encroachments cleared

The Bangalore Development Authority demolished unauthorised structures, including sheds and godowns, to recover land and prevent illegal development near Nagarbhavi circle in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

BBMP to partner with citizens, hotel owners to feed stray dogs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will partner with animal activists, pourakarmikas, hotel owners, and Health Department officials to ensure that stray animals are well-fed in the city. To arrange food for stray animals in places where they do not find food, the Animal Husbandry division of the civic body will devise an experimental policy.

Special Commissioner, Animal Husbandry, BBMP, Suralkar Vikas Kishor said, "It has come to the palike's attention that in many parts of the city, stray animals are not able to find even one meal a day. Experts say this causes stray dogs to behave aggressively. Recently, there have been instances of stray dogs attacking the public, which needs to be controlled. Therefore, to ensure that these dogs receive adequate food, the BBMP will coordinate with animal caretakers, pourakarmikas, hotel owners, Health Department staff, and other interested parties."

Animal lovers and caregivers will be provided an opportunity to register with the Animal Husbandry division of the civic body to feed stray dogs in the BBMP jurisdiction. A link to register will be available on the BBMP's social media pages and the registration process will be active between October 2 and 31. The official said the registration process would help the BBMP create a database and frame the campaign effectively and is not mandatory.

Animal lovers and caregivers will be provided an opportunity to register with the Animal Husbandry division of the civic body to feed stray dogs in the BBMP jurisdiction. FILE PHOTO

Post registration, pourakarmikas and hotel owners will also be looped into the campaign and feeding areas will be identified. The campaign will initially be implemented in select places as a pilot. The civic body will then collect feedback from all the stakeholders and if the campaign proves to be successful, it will be implemented across all the wards.

"We invite citizens to partner with the palike as coexisting champions through this initiative to feed stray dogs. This also helps in fostering empathy among citizens for animals. We also request more locals to take social responsibility and care for stray animals in their areas," Mr. Suralkar said.

The BBMP is also working on capacity building to aid in animal rescue, post-surgical care, and medical supervision and recovery in every zone. A detailed policy about the same will be released soon.

Honour for DK village

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Kuthlur village in Dakshina Kannada has been recognised as the destination for adventure tourism by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

The village in Belthangady taluk has been awarded as one of the Best Tourism Villages in the adventure tourism category in the Best Tourism Village Competition 2024 organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism.

A documentary prepared by three youths from Kuthlur under Naravi GP got selected at the national-level competition.

Classifieds
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94431 24712

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✔ PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR), DOB:24–01–92, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) Chennai, Annual Income: 30 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same or any other community. Ph: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

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TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in)
1. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF CB CASES FOR THE PERIOD 01.10.2024 TO 30.09.2025 (Tender ID-2024_TSC_692534_1 & Last Date of Submission-03.10.2024 at 5 PM)
2. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF PET BOTTLES (750 Ml) FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.10.2024 TO 30.09.2025 (Tender ID- 2024_TSC_692568_1 & Last Date of Submission-03.10.2024 at 5 PM)
3. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF LABELS (750 ML IMFL) FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.12.2024 TO 30.11.2025. (TenderID-2024_TSC_692575_1 & Last Date of Submission-03.10.2024 at 5 PM)
4. TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF EXTRA NEUTRAL ALCOHOL (ENA) FOR THE PERIOD 01.10.2024 TO 31.03.2025 (Tender ID-2024_TSC_692821_1 & Last Date of Submission-04.10.2024 at 2 PM)
For more details contact office / website.
Thiruvalla
27.09.2024
(Sd/-) GM (i/c)

CET second extended round: Option entry from tomorrow

Candidates will be allowed to cancel the seat allotted to them in the first or second round until 11 a.m. on October 3. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has provided an opportunity for candidates who passed the II PUC third examination to participate in seat allotment for the second extended round of UG-CET-2024. The website link for entering options in priority order was opened on Saturday.

In addition, those who did not enter options in the first two rounds, those who did not give any choice for the allotted seat, and those who have not been allotted any seat yet, will be given the opportunity to enter options from September 30 to October 4, KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna said in a press release on Saturday.

The provisional result for the second extended round of seat allotment will be announced on October 7, and the final result on October 8. The window for fee payment and downloading of admission orders will be open from October 9 to 14. The final date for reporting to the college is October 15.

The CET rank for those who passed the II PU third examination has been given based on the marks information directly received from the PU Department. Students who passed the supplementary exam in 12th grade from other boards must submit their mark sheets and CET admission card for 2024 to the KEA by September 30 to receive their rank and enter options.

Five-fold penalty

After the announcement of the results of the second extended round of seat allotment, candidates will not be given any opportunity to enter choices. Hence, they must accept the allotted seat. If they do not take admission after getting a seat, they will have to pay a penalty five times the engineering fee prescribed by the government. Therefore, candidates must carefully enter their options, the KEA release said.

Candidates will be allowed to cancel the seat allotted to them in the first or second round until 11 a.m. on October 3. A penalty of ₹5,000 will be imposed on such candidates.

The admission process for medical, dental, and AYUSH courses will be conducted separately, and the schedule will be announced shortly.

'People and books' event today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sahitya Akademi is hosting a 'People and Books' programme with B.R. Ravikanthe Gowda, IGP, on Sunday. It will be held at Sahitya Akademi, Southern Regional Office, opposite Kalagrama, ORR, Mallathahalli, at 11 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. The Public are hereby informed that my client, M/s.Pothys Retail Private Limited, Chennai, desires to purchase the below mentioned schedule property (hereinafter referred to as 'Schedule Property' from Smt. Dipti Harish Patel @ Depathi Patel and Smt. Neena R.Patel @ Nina Patel, daughters of Late Sri Natubhai Maganbhai Patel, residing at Nos. 19/27 and 19/27/1, 1st Main, Jayamahal Extension, Bengaluru - 560046 (hereinafter referred to as 'Owners'). The Owners have represented to our client that they are the sole and absolute owners of the Schedule Property with clear and marketable title and absolute right and interest therein and that apart from them, there are no other person/s having any right or claim over the Schedule Property.
2. The Owners have further represented that they have not entered into any Agreement in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof and have not created mortgage or any type of encumbrance in respect of the Schedule Property.
3. The Owners have entered into a registered Sale Agreement with my client on 05.09.2024 and have received a sum of Rs. 33.50 crores towards part of sale consideration and my client have agreed to pay the balance sale consideration at the time of registration of sale deed.
4. My client has sought for certain documents from the Owners, without which the Owners are unable to establish their absolute title over the schedule property and also expressed his readiness and willingness to complete the sale transaction, after receipt of such documents.
5. Any person claiming to have any manner of right, title, claim or interest over the schedule Property or any objection for the sale transaction thereof in favour of my client, is hereby called upon to notify the undersigned of such right, title, claim, interest or objection with supporting documents thereof, within Seven (7) days from the date of this Notice, after which period, it shall be assumed that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property or any part thereof nor any objections for the sale thereof by the Owners in favour of my client.
6. Further, any person/s are directed not to deal with the schedule property, in the meantime.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal Nos. 241, 241A and 242, BBMP Khatha Nos. 46/34/32/241, 47/35/32A/241A and 48/36/33/242, Old Khatha Nos. 44/34, 45/35 and 46/36, Sy.Nos. 3/2, 4/2 and 3/1A along with old dilapidated sheds situated in Gunde Pantharapalya Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, duly converted for Non - Agricultural Industrial Purpose, vide Official Memorandum bearing No. B.DIS.ALN.SR.4612 dated : 09.11.1970 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District, situated at Pantharapalya, Mysore Road, Bengaluru, now coming under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No. 160, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Ward, measuring 90,144 square feets and bounded by:

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	Ramanagara	Harohalli 3rd Phase					
Zone-2, Bengaluru	Chikkaballapura	Gowribidanur 2nd Phase	+91-9008903540	do2 @kiadb.in			
	Kolar	Vemgal 1st Phase					
Zone-3, Bengaluru	Bengaluru Rural	Obadenahalli	+91-9844549379	do3 @kiadb.in			
		Hi Tech Defense and Aerospace Park Phase-2					
Tumakuru	Tumakuru	Vasanthanarasapura 2nd Phase	+91-9538746961	dotumakuru @kiadb.in	09th October 2024	08th November 2024	12th and 13th November 2024
		Vasanthanarasapura 3rd Phase					
		Vasanthanarasapura 3rd Phase (Residential layout)					
Mysuru	Mysuru	Kadakola	+91-9845033499	domysuru@ kiadb.in			
		Adakanahalli					
	Chamarajanagar	Badanaguppe Kellamballi 1st Phase					
Davanagere	Davanagere	Sarathi Kuruburahalli 1st Phase	+91-9448656529	dodavangere @kiadb.in			
	Shivamogga	Sanda					
Mangaluru	Dakshina Kannada	EPIP IA, Ganjimutt	+91-9880764840	domangaluru @kiadb.in	15th October 2024	14th November 2024	19th and 20th November 2024
	Udupi	Belapu					
		Miyar					
Kalaburagi	Kalaburagi	Nanduru Kesaratagi 2nd Phase	+91-6363894515	dokalaburagi @kiadb.in			
	Yadgir	Kadechuru 1st Phase Kadechuru 2nd Phase					
Belagavi	Belagavi	Kanagala 1st Phase	+91-9886712264	dobelagavi@ kiadb.in			
		Kittur					
	Vijayapura	Mulawada 1st Phase					
	Bagalkote	Balkundi					

* KIADB reserves the right for any changes in the location of commercial plots for e-Auction andallotment of the plots will be as per the prevailing terms and conditions being followed by the KIAD Board Related details of Plots, Extent, Schedule and Bid base price etc.. are available up on registration for e-Auction on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

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World Heart Day: Celebrating the Heart of Healthcare

On World Heart Day, the focus is drawn to both heart health and the strong emotional bonds that influence patient care. This year, the theme "Use Heart for Action" emphasises the importance of taking proactive steps to promote heart health. Hospitals are essential in establishing a physical and emotional support system for those with heart problems. It's not just about the medical treatment – it's about the human touch that makes a lasting difference.

Doctors, particularly cardiologists, are at the core of this relationship. Although their knowledge saves lives, their empathy frequently gives patients the emotional comfort they require. Fear and hope are just a few of the many feelings that accompany any diagnosis. To help patients and their families navigate these feelings, doctors and other healthcare professionals collaborate closely with them, developing a trust that extends beyond procedures and treatments.

Hospitals have taken action to ensure that heart patients receive care on several levels because they recognize the value of developing these partnerships. In addition to offering advanced medical care, many have established programs designed to support the emotional well-being of heart patients. Peer support groups, patient education, and counselling are some of these activities that help patients stay strong during their rehabilitation by letting them know they aren't going through it alone. At every stage of their care, hospitals make sure that patients are supported and heard, right from pre-surgery consultations to post-operative care. Working together is essential to this process. Multidisciplinary teams consisting of nurses, nutritionists, mental health specialists, and rehabilitation specialists often collaborate closely with cardiologists. To provide comprehensive care that covers both the physical and emotional components of heart disease, hospitals also collaborate with heart health programs and organizations. These partnerships aim to deliver not just effective treatment but a holistic healing experience, ensuring patients receive well-rounded support.

World Heart Day serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of heart health, but it also highlights the very heart of healthcare itself. Hospitals and physicians make sure that patients feel taken care of both physically and emotionally by promoting awareness and fostering a supportive environment, which enables them to embark on their road toward heart health with courage, hope, and confidence.

-Simran Kumar

ADVERTISEMENT

Be Aware of Your Heart Care: Don't Neglect it ! – The Right Solution Awaits at Kauvery

As we observe World Heart Day, it's crucial to remind ourselves of the importance of heart health. Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of death worldwide, and neglecting early signs of heart issues can lead to life-threatening consequences. At Kauvery Hospital, we are dedicated to ensuring that heart care is not only accessible but also efficient and tailored to individual needs.

Our team of heart specialists emphasizes that understanding your heart's health is the first step toward preventing severe complications. Here's what you need to know about heart care and why early intervention can save lives.

The Silent Nature of Heart Disease:

Heart disease often progresses silently. Many individuals may not experience noticeable symptoms until the condition has worsened significantly. According to Dr. Deepak Krishna Murthy, a senior cardiologist at Kauvery Hospital, this is why routine check-ups and heart screenings are essential, especially for those over the age of 40 or with a family history of heart conditions.

"Most people only think about heart problems when they experience chest pain or discomfort. However, the early signs of heart disease can be much more subtle, such as fatigue, shortness of breath, or even digestive issues. If ignored, these symptoms can lead to severe conditions like heart attacks or heart failure," explains Dr Deepak Krishnamurthy.

Early Diagnosis and Treatment

The good news is that early diagnosis can make a significant difference. At Kauvery Hospital, we offer comprehensive heart screenings, including ECGs, stress tests, and advanced imaging technologies that help detect issues before they become severe.

"Our advanced diagnostic tools allow us to identify potential heart problems even before symptoms appear. This enables us to take a preventive approach and recommend lifestyle changes or treatments that can improve the patient's heart health and prevent future complications," says Dr Deepak Krishnamurthy.

Preventive Care and Heart Health Tips

Dr. Deepak Krishnamurthy suggests that the key to maintaining a healthy heart is a combination of regular screenings, a healthy lifestyle, and early intervention when needed.

Here are a few preventive measures everyone should follow:

- Maintain a Balanced Diet: Eating a heart-healthy diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins helps reduce the risk of heart disease. Limit processed foods, excess salt, and sugar, which can contribute to high blood pressure and cholesterol.
- Exercise Regularly: Engaging in physical activities such as walking, swimming, or cycling for at least 30 minutes a day can strengthen your heart and improve circulation.
- Manage Stress: High stress levels can elevate blood pressure, which puts extra strain on your heart. Practice relaxation techniques such as yoga, meditation, or deep breathing exercises to keep stress under control.
- Quit Smoking: Smoking is one of the leading risk factors for heart disease. Quitting smoking not only improves heart health but also benefits overall well-being.
- Monitor Blood Pressure and Cholesterol Levels: Regularly checking your blood pressure and cholesterol levels helps catch problems early. High blood pressure or high cholesterol often has no symptoms but can significantly increase your risk of heart disease.

Don't Wait for Symptoms to Worsen

If you experience any of the following symptoms, it's important to consult a heart specialist immediately:

- Persistent chest pain or discomfort
- Shortness of breath
- Unexplained fatigue or weakness
- Dizziness or fainting
- Swelling in the legs, ankles, or feet

"Our message this World Heart Day is clear: don't wait for symptoms to worsen before seeking help. Early intervention can save lives, and at Kauvery Hospital, we provide the best possible care to ensure our patients receive timely and accurate diagnoses," advises Dr Deepak Krishnamurthy.

Advanced Heart Care at Kauvery

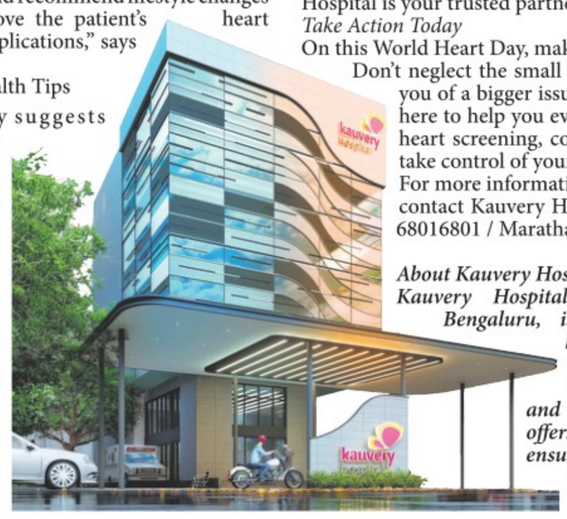
Kauvery Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art technology and a team of highly skilled cardiologists and surgeons who are committed to providing top-tier heart care. From preventive screenings to advanced treatments like angioplasty, stenting, and heart surgeries, we ensure that every patient receives personalized care based on their specific needs.

Our goal is to make heart care simple and accessible, giving you peace of mind when it comes to your health. Whether it's a routine check-up or a complex heart procedure, Kauvery Hospital is your trusted partner in heart health.

Take Action Today

On this World Heart Day, make a commitment to your heart. Don't neglect the small signs – they could be warning you of a bigger issue. At Kauvery Hospital, we are here to help you every step of the way. Schedule a heart screening, consult with our specialists, and take control of your heart health today.

For more information or to book an appointment, contact Kauvery Hospital at Electronic City: 080-68016801 / Marathahalli: 080-41804180.



About Kauvery Hospital

Kauvery Hospital, located in Marathahalli, Bengaluru, is a multi-specialty hospital known for providing world-class healthcare services. With a team of experienced doctors and advanced technology, Kauvery offers specialized care in cardiology, ensuring that patients receive the best possible treatment for heart conditions.

25 YEARS Trust Quality Care

Kauvery Hospitals

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Self medication=Self harm

When it comes to treating ourselves, many turn doctors themselves. Many people believe that they are good at self medication and cure themselves. It is often easier to avoid the cost and hassle of visiting a doctor and use over-the-counter or prescription medication to alleviate the symptoms of an illness or physical discomfort. Unfortunately, there are consequences associated with self-medicating that are just not worth the risks. It is always best to discuss your symptoms and physical ailments with a trained medical professional. Getting a proper diagnosis and a treatment plan is the best way avoids any complications or health risks.

CALCIUM & VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTS

These days, it is a craze for people to take supplements over the counter without realising that they can be potentially harmful. Perhaps, the best example of this is calcium and vitamin supplements.

These supplements taken without the advice of doctors can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and death. Calcium has become extremely popular to supplement with, especially amongst older women, in the hope that it will prevent osteoporosis.

However, many pop up the Calcium tablets without consulting the doctors and are prone to health risks. Studies on the relationship between calcium and cardiovascular disease (CVD) suggest that dietary intake of calcium protects against heart disease, but supplemental calcium may increase the risk. Similarly, studies have showed that those who took extra vitamins and minerals were more likely to have health problems.

Vitamins are essential for life but general unsupervised vitamin pill-popping is more than just a waste of money and can be fatal too.

PAIN KILLERS

Most of us don't think twice about taking a non-prescription pain reliever to ease a headache or soreness that might follow a game, but there is growing evidence that commonly used painkillers such as Advil can trigger heart attacks or strokes in some people. For example, when taken at recommended doses, acetaminophen is safe for most people, even when used long term.

However, when these pain killers are taken as the self medication, many would not know the exact dosage. Exceeding the maximum recommended dose—by even a little bit—can prove toxic, especially to the liver. For example, take the maximum recommended doses for Tylenol Extra Strength for your joint pain, Nyquil Cold & Flu, and a nighttime's sleep aid like Walgreens PM, and you will get 6,600 milligrams—well above the 4,000 milligrams a day that's linked to liver damage.

Dr. Swetha Madhuri

Classifieds

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
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Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
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MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

DOCTOR

Hindu SC Very Fair Mbbs Girl 26/144. Bridegroom MBBS MD MTECH Contact - 9025621996.

HINDU REDDY Surgeon 33Y 165cms Own Practice. Looking for Suitable Groom from well Settled Family in Chennai CNB, Ph– 89256 40111.

DOCTOR GIRL 31/156 MBBS MD General Medicine, seeks Doctors/ suitable grooms 9447493034, 9497168001

MBBS DR/PUSHPAKA BRAHMIN (Malayali) , 25/162/Pure Veg.Seeks Doctor/ suitable groom.Ct: 9447279844

HINDU- NADAR
Chennai
MD-Clinical, 25,
V Fair, Good Looking,
Only Daughter,
Well Educated
Rich Affluent Family
Seeks Suitable MD/MS Dr Groom with Clean Habits
94447 59246
94449 68235

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
Smart, Pretty, Cultured, Homely Doctor Girl 35/165 MD Anesthesiology from affluent family of doctors. Father Cardiac Surgeon, Kerala Nair based in Chennai. Looking for Doctor grooms from good families.
98400 50381 / 98409 85383

ENGLISH

VANNIYAKULA KHASTRIYA Parents seek MS/ PhD Groom, working in USA, with clean habits from traditional family for their daughter, IIT Engineering graduate currently doing PhD in USA, 25yrs, Ashwini, fair, 157cm vegetarian. Subsects acceptable. Whatsapp – 7200352111

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

GIRL, 1993/ 163 cm, Tamil / IRS Income Tax, SC, suitable match prepared MD/MS/SS/IRS/IPS/Caste no bar. Contact 9042261465

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL, 29, 165 cm, Postgraduate, MNC Chennai. Seeks Suitable Professionals, Engineers Groom. M:9940108005

HINDU NAIR Phd 28yrs 162cm rich family only girl seeks suitable groom. Ct: 98216 72999

NAIR 34yrs MBA., USA Citizen seeks Groom Betwn 35-37yrs must be willing to relocate to Minnesota USA and also should be Pet friendly Ct: 9500108129

Nair Girl, 24, B Tech NITC, DyEr BEL Bengaluru. Prefer IIT/NIT Graduate. Contact: 98470 64841.

TAMIL

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM girl 37, Engineer, seeks qualified, employed, never married Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

GOD FEARING Christian CSI Nadar elite family invites Proposal for their daughter fair, beautiful, well educated employed in MNC in Chennai, drawing good Salary. Groom is god fearing well educated from elite family, age upto 36 Parents Contact 9500027027.

CHRISTIAN, INTER CASTE, 33yrs, MS. Software Professional in US. Income 1 crore, Upper middle class family. Ph no 8138900537

Tamil Hindu Nadar 34/158, Pooradam Dhanusu, IAS- Maharastra, Divorcee, no issue preferred Hindu Groom,Caste No Bar. Ct: 9445282905/ 9445704985

MUDALIAR, 27 yrs Slim Fair B. Com,CMA,CS Cost Auditor,MNC 8L PA, Moolam 4th Pada/Dhanush (Renal Transplanted leading a normal life) well settled educated upper middle class family seeks alliance from professionals Contact 7010704819

RICH MUDALIYAR 24yrs B.Tech Own Schools & Colleges in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU/CHETTY DEC'87/157CM B.E,M.S(USA) Thiruvathirai,well educated family,seeks professional,sensible, well educated & smart groom from same or equal community 9994338914

HINDU NADAR 23/171cm, BE (Pune), Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 9380791999/ 9841329471

HINDU SC AD 28yrs MBA Chennai Bride seeks same community Chennai qualified employed groom below 34yrs. Caste No Bar. 7338901952 Whatsapp

SBI MANAGER, BE MBA,SC AD Hindu, 36yrs, Mesham–Bharani, seeking suitable & qualified Groom. Ph–8056104103

TAMIL

SEEKING EMPLOYED bridegroom below 35y for Hindu SC fair, educated, divorced, homely & employed 32y bride from elite family. CNBar 7303518877

GOOD LOOKING bride B.Tech, MBA (IIM) 34/163 Lead Product Manager, TVS Motors Bangalore seeks suitable Tamil/ Telugu SWE grooms working in USA/ UK/ Singapore/ Dubai. 9176250276

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 9498313625

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 24/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 29yrs.Ct 9443643415

HINDU NADAR, 31, Barani, MBBS, MD working in London seeks Doctor / Engineer Nadar Groom working in England. Brokers Excuse. Ct: 94445 56000

SC AD / 24 / Star Rohini /MBA (Vandavasi) / Pvt Job Chennai/ expecting Suitable Bridegroom. Ct. 9444573205

HINDU NADAR 1989/160cm Ashwini Central Govt job Bangalore 80K pm seeks suitable groom Ct.9489972544

DOCTOR MD (Pathology) DCH, 39yrs, Hindu BC,Divorcee without child, working in a private hospital, seeks well settled, compatible, decent & affectionate Groom. CNB.Ct: 9176289180

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 26yrs, M.Arch, Own business firm in Chennai. Contact: 9710093999/ 9710091999

MUDALIAR (CNB) 29/165cm, Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MD (Pead), Doctor, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks groom PG Doctor / Business/Eng – 9840077683, 9962530015

MUTHURAJA REMARRIAGE 39 BE MBA USA veg seeks US Profiles CNB Geetham 9884858014

MUDALIAR 28 MS Australia Seeks Australia UK Europe Profiles Geetham 9884858014

VADAGALAI BHARATWAJA Hastham December 1987/ 175 cm double post graduate seeks professionally qualified well settled boy. Kalai no bar. Boys from Chennai and Bangalore only. Ph: 9884375894 email: matrimonynew07@gmail.com

HINDU SC AD Age 32 MCA, Unmarried, Private School Teacher Seeks working Groom CNB Ct: 8072113977.

SAIVA PILLAI Veg 30 Aswini Fair 155CM B.E MS Software Seeks Suitable Groom USA Only Whatsapp 9080758003, 6383373575

✔ **REQUIRED A** suitable alliance for the bride who is a postgraduate in architecture & She is 24 years. Bride belongs to Hindu Balija Naidu community. Please respond to the details to the number given below. 96000 22622

HINDU SC / AD 32/160 BE, MS in USA, employed in USA H1B Visa seeks suitable groom. Kindly contact +91 8073030092

MUSLIM 31YRS, B.Com, CA Elite business family background, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU YADAVA 35/163 BE (ECE) divorcee Wheatish caring clean habit seeks employed/ business groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 9487153988/ 6382962213

HINDU NADAR 28yrs, MBBS, MD, 165cms, VIP Business Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9380791999/ 9047192999

HINDU SC AD 35/165 Engineer B'lore, Divorcee, no issues seeks suitable Groom. Ct: 9902581488/ 9980114315

VVIP 1986 born Mudaliar MBBS MS tall fair beautiful girl seek Affluent smart same or one or two years elder smart doctor/ business groom from rich family Chennai/ Bangalore CNB. Ct: 7305010105

HINDU NADAR 32yrs/164cm, B.Tech star–Revathy workg–IT seeks IT/ other profnl groom 9944410712/ 9514952555

HINDU YADAVA Alliance for Tamil Girl 25 Y Aug 99 B.com, pursuing CA. Kanni / Uthiram, F retd SBI Mgr & M HW. Seeks Boy with BE / CA / IT / Govt Job.Call 9443450707, 8220311847

HINDU SC AD (PR) ME pursuing Ph.D (JRF) 29/160, Uthiratadhi / Meenam upper middle class, well Educated native of Coimbatore, seeking qualified Groom preferably Engineer of Age 30-32. CT: 9443401949, 9446352102.

NADAR 33/5'6" MBA working in Chennai Elite Family Seeks qualified Groom working in Cennai. Ct: 9962991972

MUDALIAR 22/160 Fair Beautiful,BTech,SWE,Amazon,500000.PA Well Settled Family CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TAMIL

ELITE MUDALIYAR 30yrs 177cm BE, Well Educated Background. Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9962791888/ 7094991999

YADHAVA 34 Yrs Veg. Medical Professional Govt (PSU) Rs.9L PA. Caste no bar in BC. Contact / WhatsApp: 9597459651.

MUDALIAR BRIDE, 34/157 BSc, fair/beautiful, seeks Bangalore based educated groom. Ct: 9482839075

HINDU PILLAI, 39, Fair, MBA, working in MNC Dubai seeks professional groom. Ct: akilaram1948@gmail.com

BRAHMIN GIRL, Eggiterian 34 yrs Divorced, no kids, seek 5 yrs difference boy,Chennai only. Upper middle class only. Any language. 9042712025

GRAMANI, 24YRS, B.Com, Elite Business family. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9380791999 / 9047192999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite Business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 8524891999 / 8939691888

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA Twin Daughters Age 25 (Mola Nakshtra) 165, BBA Aviation, BSc Nautical Science Respectively Fair Seeks Good Looking Grooms. Whatsapp – 94437 54437

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
Seeking Tamil Groom, 29-34, Professional in USA, for a Beautiful 29-year-old Agamudaya Mudaliar Girl, Non-Vegetarian, US Citizen, MD Doctor, Raised, Educated, and Working in the Chicago Area.
Contact:
+1 847-660-3713
tvelan@yahoo.com

IYENGAR 33-YEARS Working as IT Auditor for MNC, Well - Settled U.S. Citizen. Groom must be in or willing to relocate to the U.S. and Well-Qualified to work in the U.S. He should be a teetotaller and Pure Vegetarian Age difference maximum 5years, preferred Iyengar Grooms / Parents. Please Contact me on my whatsapp Number + 13097501422. Mr. Parthasarathy Iyengar

MUDALIAR, 27/162cm, B.Com, MBA Upper Middle class, Homely Girl, Fair. seeks suitable groom. Ct:94449 35026

RC NADAR, 33/163, ME, Chennai, Seeks Groom. Contact:9444841371

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

✔ **ROMAN CATHOLIC, 29,180 cms, B.E.,M.S, Product Manager in Sweden. Seeking suitable alliance from professionaly qualified girls willing to relocate. Ct:6381070174/ Email:sjm.val7@gmail.com**

SMART, HANDSOME 36, 5'9", MEng (US) , in Big Tech ($400K+), well–to–do S.Indian family. Seeking beautiful, compatible US–based bride. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

CSI NADAR Advertising Professional having own business, 35 years 184 cms, from Elite propertied family based in Chennai seeks suitable bride with cosmopolitan out look. 9442526034 (whatsapp only please)

DENTIST AGE: 49/175cm Fair well settled in Chennai Elite Business Family Seeks Suitable bride. 9940451079

DIVORCEE

HINDU VELLALAR 53 MA,160cm,No Child, Young & Helathy, Govt. Chennai 15L p.a. seeks Bride CNB Ct:9092828592

ENGLISH

Hindu 38 Divorcee working as HR CBE 178cm Contact: 6238096306

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

NAIR 29/ 193 IT MNC Chennai Chothi seeks Tall Educated bride from respectable Nair families. 9444414951/ 8838593652

Hindu-Boy 37 Years, Divorced, Sr. Manager, Bangalore Contact: 7337848936

HINDU NAIR boy, 29 years, fair, 181cm tall, employed as a software developer in an MNC seeking alliance from working professionals, preferably engineers, doctors. Family – retired defence officer settled in Chennai. Contact: +917904635440

VISHWAKARMA (C), PhD, 32 years, Uthradam, residing Mavelikara Kerala seeks a well–educated bride, Mob – 9388404006

Nair 34 years, BBA, Executive - Property Mgmt (JLL), Chennai. seeking suitable brides. 9940392004

Vellalar Pillai 38/175 Atham B Tech SSWE Mysore Caste/Horoscope No Bar 9597078140

NRI

UK PERMANENT resident Hindu software Engineer age 32, Ht 168cm, Wt 70 Kg seeks bride from abroad or India.Contact 8056575473 for details.

Barujibi/ Caste no Bar, Boy: 29 Yrs, 168 cm USA born, Grew up in Hyd. India, B.E. (BITS Pilani, Hyd) M.E.+ Ph.D. (U of Michi. AA, USA) Job: Engineer ARAMCO W. in USA. Parents: Ex Head CSIR Labs in Hyd, Needs Beg. high edu, Fair Girls Contact Mobile: (+91 9848960101, 9903866471)

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 28 MS USA Seeks fair slim same community bride willing to relocate to USA. 9382266099

TAMIL MUSLIM –30yrs/179cm Handsome BE–MS (USA) SW Engr. USA. Seeks Bride (TM) Fair, Tall (165–179cm) Age (24–27yrs) Professionally Qualified– Willing to move USA. Ct: Whatsapp 9444149649 with Profile & Photos.

GOVT. COLLEGE Professor, 39 seeks Unmarried/ Divorcee Christian Bride. Ct: 94426 95558

CSI NADAR (Origin Tuticorin) 28yrs /172cm Fair BE working in IT field Bangalore. Seeks Good Loooking Bride (prefer CA or IT) Ct: 9047089910.

DKV– PALLAR 49/167, MBBS. MD, Never married, Govt.doctor, seeks Christian / Hindu Bride. Ct: 9488220870.

MDS DOCTOR, 35, AD Christian, Legally divorced, educated family seeks similar or equal position Bride. Ct: 9994939809

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

TAMIL CATHOLIC Bachelor, 50, Non Smoker, Non Alcoholic, B.Sc., / 25000 invites Godfearing Tamil Catholic Spinster. Contact: 98403 19390

CHRISTIAN, CONVERT, 33yrs, MCA. Software professional in Singapore. Income 50 lakhs. Ph. 8138900312

BOY 30 yrs Iyer Koundinya, ACA 180 cm MNC(Chennai), 25LPA, own house, religious minded– marriage declared null and void by court unconsummated–seeks professionally qualified brahmin girl from cultured family,Ph 8454056770

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI, DOB: 29.05.93/ 183cm, BE., MS (USA) N.Veg., Working in USA, Seeks, Suitable Bride (25–29 yrs) Studying/Working in USA, Caste No Bar. Ct: Mother – 9003713942

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 31, 174 cms, MBA, Entrepreneur. Lives in Bangalore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any similar community Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 31, 174 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from any similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 28, 180 cms, MS, Finance Professional. Lives in USA. Father is a senior professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

NAIDU, 29, 179 cms, B.Tech, Businessman. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

VELLALAR, 26, 168 cms, B.Sc. Entrepreneur. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Looking for likeminded and well educated groom from any equal community Contact: 6366448344

BRAHMIN IYENGAR, 31, 177 cms, Medico. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from Brahmin community in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

UDAYAR, 34, 171 cms, Government professional, M.Phil. Lives in Delhi. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated match from any caste. Contact: 6366448343

ARYA VYSYA, 22, 165 cms, UG. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from same community from Business family background from South India. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

HINDU, NADAR, 25yrs MBA. Running own business. Income 50 lakhs. Rich and affluent family. Ph 8138900498

HINDU, VEERA saivam, 34yrs. Software Professional in Coimbatore, Income 50 lakhs. Ph. 8138901189

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 27yrs, MBBS. Doctor in Chennai, Income 8 lakhs. Ph. 8138900553

Vanniyar Parents seek same Community Groom, with clean habits, from Educated Family, for their Daughter, BDS, 24/160, Revathi. Prefer Professional/salaried. Ph: 7710010444

WANTED GROOM
GOD FEARING Christian CSI Nadar Very Well to do family, settled in Chennai, invites proposal for their daughter, fair, 164cm, post graduate, working as an architect, owns a luxury apartment, her monthly income from investments ₹2 Lakhs. Groom shall be equal to her age 33, or up to 38, God fearing, Employed / self-employed, No smoking, No drinking.
Parents Contact
8754000750

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED
Hindu Tamil Vanniyar 32 years Doctor (Divorcee) with Female Child, only daughter of Doctor Parents needs Hindu Tamil Vanniyar boy aged between 34-39 years (Engineer, Lecturer). Parents of suitable person can send the horoscope with personal details.
Contact : 89397 15299

CSI Nadar / Nair 27/171cm B.E., H.R Professional, very Fair, well Educated family in chennai seeks suitable groom Ct: 98413 67157/ 99625 08514

HINDU Tamil 31yrs M.Sc.,(Chem)B.Ed employed as Teacher in chennai public school seeking suitable Bridegroom CNB. Ct: 98401 97371/ 98405 73654

Mudaliyar 26/169cm B.E (CS) Workg IT Manager in Ashok Leyland 12L P.A seeks MS / MBA Groom. 9840340507

RC NADAR, 34/156, B.Tech, Working in TCS Canada with PR. seeks RC Groom. Caste No Bar. Ct: 7538802230

TELUGU

REDDIYAR 32YRS, Divorce, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

KAMMA NAIDU 29yrs MBBS, MD Elite business family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom. 9710093999/ 9710091999

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 29yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

RICH NAIDU 29yrs MBBS, MD Elite business family in Chennai Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

SC, Christian 1989 / 162, M.Sc, B.Ed Pvt Teacher. Divorcee, No kids seeks Telugu / Tamil / NRI Groom. Don't expect Dowry / Assets. No brokers. W.app - 9642775849

DOCTOR

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar, Age 27, 175cm, Very Talented, MBBS., MD 2nd Year (General Medicine) Chennai Doctor Groom Seeks Good Looking and caring Doctor Bride from Good Family. Ph: 8072411192

DOCTOR GROOM SEEKING BRIDE
Hindu, Kannada, MD in nuclear medicine & MBA in Global Business, in his 30s, living in Canada. 182cm, fair, sports athlete, slim muscular body. Non -Veg, non-smoker. non-drinker. Income: $900,000.00 annual.
Seeking bride 20 to 25, attractive with a kind personality. Any degree (non-IT), willing to settle in Canada after marriage and lead a happy family life. No dowry.
Individuals in the modeling industry and / or in the beauty pageant circuit with traditional Indian values are equally suitable. Agents or Pageant coaches can contact also.
WhatsApp:
1-438-508-7727
(Mother)

URDU

SMU PARENTS from Trichy seeks pious, professional, employed groom for Saudi resident daughter 22 / 159 cm/ wheatish / M.Sc. Contact : 9597474974 WhatsApp / 00966509680175

URDU, SHAIK MUSLIM 26/160, M.S Doctor, Good Looking seeks Fair Religious M.D/M.S groom. Ct:8489535580

URDU

✔ **SMU CHENNAI Origin /Doctor / 28/ Very Fair/ Beautiful/ PG Super–speciality Resident Surgeon in Govt. Hospital at UAE. Seeking proposal preferably a doctor groom with PG from South India. CT : +971 50 7933607(Phone / Whatsapp) / +91 6385121069 (Whatsapp only)**

TAMIL

UNMARRIED TEETOTALLER Postgraduate business 59 Iyer boy seeks alliance from unmarried Iyer girls. Widows & divorcees excuse. Ct: 9447496006

MUDALIYAR 53/170 B.Com/BDM Unmarried 40K Middle class Seeks Life partner Religion No Bar. Ct: 9360297552

BRIDE WANTED for Canadian Citizen, 1982/175cm, Hindu, Smart, BE, MBA, Unmarried, Caste No Bar. 9962250563

VELLALA PILLAI 27/165 Hastham working @ Chennai MNC well settled looking for suitable bride Ct 9443262971

SC (AD) 26yrs, MBA, Well Educated Family Background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888/ 7094991999

RICH MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Well Educated family. Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU SAIVAPILLAI Karuneegar 40/ 166 BE MS SW MNC Chennai 35Lpa Teetotaler, Seeks graduate bride from any veg. FC/BC Community 9841699176

HINDU AADHI Dravidar Age 39, Salary60K Good Looking MTech, Professor, Chennai, Caste No Bar : 6383517341

REDDIYAR 53 Divorcee No Issues, Australian Citizen seeks suitable bride Ct whats app +61435496817

NAIDU, 29/182 cm, M.D., pursuing Fellowship (DM) in USA seeks Bride from respected family. Ct: 9788391456

HINDU VISWAKARMA 35Yrs/ BE–Mech, Family Business well settled, seeks graduate, good looking from decent family.Send BHP to: agni66@gmail.com

MUDALIAR 35, (Star: Ayiliam) Madras–Born,Raised and educated in Singapore and US,holding 2 Masters, Working in the US,Parents in Singapore. Contact via WhatsApp:(M) 65–90610927

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 35yrs, BE, Divorce, VVIP Business family in Chennai. Ct: 9380791999/ 9047192999

INTERCASTE : Father– Devendra Kula Vellalar, Mother– Brahmin. Son DoB: Oct 1996, fair, 170cm, good looking, B.E., working in Autonomous Body under Min. of Finance in Mumbai, 24L pa, looking for educated working girl. Govt / MNC / IT. Caste no bar. Contact: 9444589256 / 8825538874

CHRISTIAN, CSI, 32yrs, B.Tech. Software professional in Chennai. Income 30 lakhs. Ph. 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, RC, 33 yrs, B.E,M.S. Engineer in Bangalore. Income 50 lakhs. looking for a suitable partner only from Bangalore. Ph. 8138900523

AGAMUDAIYAR UTHIRADAM 34/180, B.Tech, TCS, Hyderabad, 2L pm, seeks Equally Qualified bride, Caste No bar. Contact: 8220984182

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE, Nursing, any degree bride.CNB.Ct: 9442993042

AGE 46, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

TAMIL

HINDU, VISHWAKARMA, 33 yrs, B.E. Business Professional in Chennai. Income 1 crore. Ph. 8138900412

MUDALIAR 30, M Tech, 178cm, 23 lacs PA, Smart well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

SMART, 49YRS 180, Settled @ Chennai, looking for Qualified Girl, cast no bar. CT : 7010421948

MUDALIAR 32/175 MD Pediatrician having Own Hospital seeks Bride MD/MS Doctor only Caste No Bar Ct: 8870616802 / 8310519896

CNB DOCTOR/ Software/ Engineer in Newzealand/ Australia/ India, Tamil / Telugu Bride required for BDS Surgeon U.K (MBA) presently Admin working at Bangalore 1981 born, Divorcee, No issues wishes to relocate to Newzealand. Ct: V.J.Naidu 9886782390, 9962246305

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 33yrs MBBS, MD, Own Hospital Elite Business Family Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU NADAR, 40/185 cm, M.Tech (IIT Madras), Sr. Principal Engineer (Chip Design) in an MNC in Bangalore, eggetarian, teetotaller, seeks never married, suitable bride (upto 36 yrs), Caste No Bar. Ct: 9840117920.

MUDALIYAR 29/178CM Handsome, B.Tech LLB, Business, Having own Manufacturing Industry, Chain of Hotels and Resorts,Chennai, Elite Family, Seeking bride from a well reputed Mudaliyar Family– 9840866993,8925019776

AGE–51 HINDU, Mudaliar, Business, Divorcee. Seeks Any Mudaliar Bride. Divorcee/Widower Pref. 9840776650

VIJAY TAMIL Arunthathiyar Native Chennai – Central govt. Hyderabad 1,50,000/– monthly – First marriage – seeking bride – Caste No bar – Contact 8977033982 WhatsApp only with Bride's Photo / Horoscope

OBC GIRL for boy 33yrs B.E MBA Central Govt Chennai 90K pm Employed / settled. 9444925350 / 9884172821

BE IIT 188cm Height Mudaliar 32 MNC Hyderabad Sal 75 lacs seeks Bride 160cm above Tamil, Telugu Same/Allied castes Ct: 7382620365

BE, MS (CSE), 29/180, Thevar, good–looking, High–earning (IT) groom based in Chennai, from a well–settled, affluent family. Seeking a kind, educated, and supportive bride who will encourage his professional aspirations from a family with similar values. Ph:7845821205.

I AM a 60–year–old male from Tamil Nadu, twice divorced, and currently seeking a compatible life partner. I am looking for a bride who is also divorced , without children. If you or someone you know is interested, please feel free to connect. Ct – 63857 54610

MUDALIAR 29/180 Handosme BE,MS,SWE, Nvidia,USA, 150000.USD.PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

SAIVA PILLAI 39, Divorcee.BE/MBA, MNC,Bangalore, Seeks First Marriage Bride in Thirunelveli/ Thanjavur Saiva Pillai/ Karkathar Society only.Ct: 8610726024/ 9487986589

THE HINDU
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FIR against Nirmala: Cong. asks why no pressure on FM to quit; BJP says case not comparable with MUDA's

All parties received donation through electoral bonds and FIR will have to be registered against all of them, argues Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With an FIR being filed against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in an electoral bond case in Bengaluru's Tilak Nagar station and the Congress demanding to know why her resignation was not being sought, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Saturday argued that there was a stark difference between the case against her and the FIR filed by the Lokayukta in Mysuru against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the MUDA case.

Speaking in Mysuru, Mr. Siddaramaiah had asked why either Ms. Sitharaman against whom an FIR was filed or Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy who was "out on bail" were not asked to resign, while he was being targeted.

Congress workers staging a protest holding placards in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Speaking to presspersons on this issue, Mr. Ashok said on Saturday: "There is a huge difference between the two. There is no favouritism shown in the electoral bond scheme. Ms. Sitharaman has not made money for herself. The money has come to various parties. Even the Congress has got money through electoral bonds. Let the party return the money and then seek her resignation." In contrast, he alleged, the Chief Minister had "grabbed land worth crores" through allotment of 14 sites from MUDA in Mysuru.

He said that every party has received donation for electoral bonds, and an FIR would then have to be registered against every beneficiary of electoral bond. "The issue of electoral bond had been discussed in the Cabinet and a Government Order has been issued, whereas Mr. Siddaramaiah's issue had not been discussed in the Cabinet. The Congress leaders are speaking about electoral bond to escape from the MUDA irregularities," he alleged.

Influencing probe

Mr. Ashok said that they had been demanding the resignation of Mr. Siddaramaiah since he could influence the ongoing investigation by the Lokayukta police. He also asked the Congress not to make comparisons with Mr. Kumaraswamy, as the latter was in no position to influence the police. "There should not be comparison of random cases with MUDA," he insisted

Mr. Kumaraswamy, addressing a press conference in Begngaluru, said: "How can MUDA case be compared to the FIR being filed against Ms. Sitharaman? Did the money from electoral bonds go to her personal account?"

Malicious allegations made to deter Lokayukta SIT, says ADGP hitting out at HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that "false and malicious allegations and threats" have been made to deter the Lokayukta Special Investigation Team from functioning, Additional Director-General of Police SIT, Lokayuta, M. Chandrashekar has promised to work without fear or favour, in a letter to his colleagues.

The allegations

This came hours after Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy at a press conference made allegations against him. Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged that the information about prosecution sanction against him being sought by the State government had been leaked.

"In August 2024, the Governor sought information from the Lokayukta as to how the information was leaked and Mr. Chandrashekhar in September suggested that an investigation should be conducted on the officials in the Governor's office... He has the audacity to seek permission from the government to conduct a probe in the Governor's office."

> An accused, however high and mighty he may be, is an accused. Let us not get demotivated by such allegations and threats.
>
> **M. CHANDRASHEKAR**
> Additional Director-General of Police SIT, Lokayuta

The Union Minister accused Mr. Chandrashekhar, a Himachal Pradesh cadre officer, of "creating fake documents" to extend deputation in Karnataka, and indulging in illegal activities in association with a person who has 2,500 FIRs filed against him to fleece money from realtors. "I have decided to submit all these documents to the Home Secretary in New Delhi."

In response to this, in the letter to his colleagues, the SIT head said: "Today an accused in crime number 16/4 of SIT H.D. Kumaraswamy, at a press conference, made false and malicious allegations and threats. As you know the SIT had sought the prosecution sanction of the accused from the competent authority. This accused is on bail... he has done this to deter us from discharging our duties. It appears that his objective is to create fear in the minds of officers of SIT by attacking me."

'Don't get demotivated'

He further said: "But, an accused, however high and mighty he may be, is an accused. Let us not get demotivated by such allegations and threats. I, as head of SIT, promise you that I will work without fear or favour and bring to justice all criminals and accused in our cases. I promise to protect you from external influences."

He also said that they cannot avoid confronting criminals and accused during discharge of duty. "This must not deter us from discharging our duty," he said.

From Page One

FIR against Nirmala over electoral bond scheme

According to the complaint, Ms. Sitharaman and ED officials committed extortion under the pretext of electoral bonds and benefited to the tune of over ₹8,000 crore.

Based on a private complaint filed by Adarsh R. Iyer, co-president of Janaadhikaara Sangharsha Parishath (JSP), alleging criminal conspiracy and extortion, and compelling companies and other individuals through electoral bonds in favour of the BJP, the FIR named Ms. Sitharaman, Enforcement Directorate (ED), BJP Karnataka unit president B.Y. Vijayendra and senior party leader Nalin Kumar Kateel.

According to the complaint, Ms. Sitharaman and ED officials committed extortion under the pretext of electoral bonds and benefited to the tune of over ₹8,000 crore. Mr. Iyer in his complaint alleged that the "extortion" was committed in connivance with BJP leaders and office-bearers of the party at the State and national level.

He claimed Ms. Sitharaman used ED to "conduct raids, seizures, and arrests to compel corporates to pay". Fearing raids, many corporates were forced to buy bonds worth several crores, which were encashed by BJP leaders, he alleged.

The complainant initially approached the jurisdictional Tilak Nagar police station with a complaint on March 30, and then approached DCP, Bengaluru Southeast, in April. Since there was no action, he moved the court and filed a private complaint seeking directions from Special Court exclusively dealing with criminal cases related to elected MPs/MLAs in the State of Karnataka.

HC refuses to quash FIR against State Bar Council chairman, vice-chairman, and manager

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It was alleged that they misappropriated official funds worth several lakhs of rupees

The High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash the First Information Report (FIR) registered against the chairman, vice-chairman, and others of the Karnataka State Bar Council (KSBC) for alleged misappropriation of official funds worth several lakhs of rupees.

Pointing out that there are serious disputes about documents on payment made to various entities and genuineness of the receipts issued by them, the court declined to quash FIR registered against KSBC's chairman Vishalaraghu H.L., vice-chairman Vinay B. Mangalekar, and manager Puttegowda.

"The apex court has clearly held that if the issue in any *lis* revolves round disputed questions of fact, the court exercising jurisdiction under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. should not quash those proceedings, unless there are documents in support of the accused, which are all of unimpeachable character and sterling quality. There are none in the case at hand as every document is disputed," said Justice M. Nagaprasanna in his order.

The FIR was registered on April 17 for the offences of misappropriation, criminal breach of trust, cheating, forgery, falsification of accounts, and criminal conspiracy, on the complaint lodged by senior advocate Basavaraj S., who is a member of KSBC.

It was pointed out in the complaint that KSBC had organised a State advocates' convention in August last year at Mysuru and ₹3.3 crore was collected for the convention from different sources, including ₹1.16 crore as donations from advocates and others, ₹1 crore as contribution from the State government, and ₹75 lakh from KSBC's own funds.

The accused showed that ₹3.12 crore was spent on the convention using forged documents and falsified accounts and misappropriated several lakhs of rupees for their personal use, it was alleged in the complaint.

State govt. trying to frame me, claims Kumaraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Saturday accused the State government functionaries of conspiring to "frame" him.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, the Congress government was "misusing officials and administrative authorities" and the Police Department was operating "under the instructions of Ministers according to their whims and fancies."

Stating that he will not be intimidated, Mr. Kumaraswamy said: "This government, including the Home Minister, are conspiring to frame me. They are conducting meetings with top policemen and Ministers to conspire against me." He accused the government of diverting focus from actual issues by involving him, blaming the Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

On the Sai Venkateshwara Minerals illegal mining case dating back to the time he was the Chief Minister in 2007, the Union Minister said: "The case is in court. I have not disrespected or misused any constitutional bodies for my personal gain. I will resign if there's anything wrong."

While acknowledging that he had signed on the Gangenahalli denotification file while he was the Chief Minister, Mr. Kumaraswamy however refuted any wrong doing in the case. He claimed he was not aware that his mother-in-law was the GPA holder in the denotification case. He said he would retire from politics if found guilty. "Let a case be made out in the court," he said.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also claimed that he had documents against six to seven Ministers in the present Cabinet and that they would have to resign if he released them. Hitting out at the Chief Minister for claiming that the BJP and the JD(S) were conspiring to destabilise his government, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the people had given Mr. Siddaramaiah and the Congress the mandate for five years, but it was futile.

SIT raids Munirathna's residence, offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The residence of Munirathna in Bengaluru, which was searched on Saturday.

Four days after the arrested Munirathna, BJP MLA, was grilled by officials, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday carried out a series of raids on the residences and offices of Munirathna and his associates and recovered electronic items, including laptops, pendrives, hard discs, and DVRs, pertaining to three cases against the MLA.

Several teams of officials carried out the raids around 7.30 a.m. along with a team of Forensic Science Laboratory simultaneously at Munirathna's residence in Vyalikaval and his offices, along with residences of three of his associates.

The police gathered the available evidences, which, according to the officials, will help in the investigation. The police are also checking the call record details of the accused mentioned in the FIR.

Earlier, the police had raided the godown-cum-office of Munirathna where the accused had allegedly raped the victim.

Details on phone

They are also verifying the details of Munirathna's phone, which he has claimed to have lost at the time of his arrest from Kolar earlier this month. The SIT is on the lookout for the other accused.

New study reveals five genetically-distinct population of Asian elephants in India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The study offers new hope for the species' future by identifying key populations that need tailored conservation strategies. FILE PHOTO

The existence of five genetically-distinct populations of Asian elephants in India, more than previously thought, has been revealed in a recent study published in Current Biology.

'Divergence and serial colonisation shape genetic variation and define conservation units in Asian elephants', authored by Uma Ramakrishnan's group at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, in collaboration with Raman Sukumar and others at the Indian Institute of Science, have uncovered new insights into the genetic history of India's Asian elephants.

"India is home to 60% of the global population of Asian elephants, found across South and Southeast Asia. Today, Asian elephant habitats in India are fragmented, surrounded by farmland, human settlements, commercial plantations, and linear transport infrastructure. This has resulted in widespread and often severe human-elephant conflicts. Despite their ecological and cultural significance, studies on the population genetic structure, diversity, and demographic history of these elephants—critical for identifying conservation and management units—have been limited," said a release.

The study, which analysed whole genome sequences from captive and wild elephant blood samples collected across diverse landscapes, offers new hope for the species' future by identifying key populations that need tailored conservation strategies.

The research identified five elephant populations spread across Northern, Central, and Southern India. Two populations in the north and three in the south. Historically, elephants migrated from the north to the south, but with each migration, their genetic diversity declined.

Anubhab Khan, the study's lead author and faculty member at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, explained that this reduced genetic variation could be the result of a serial founder effect, where fewer individuals from each starting population migrate to establish new populations. As these populations become smaller, the risk of inbreeding depression increases – a phenomenon where harmful genetic variants are more likely to be inherited due to breeding among related individuals.

"The results also align with previous research, showing that the Northwest and Northeast Indian populations, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, are genetically distinct from other Indian populations. The Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers are potential barriers to gene flow in these regions."

The release said that the southernmost population, located south of the Shencottah Gap, has the lowest genetic diversity and is particularly vulnerable. With fewer than 50 elephants remaining, Prof. Ramakrishnan warned that this population has a higher chance of extinction.

'Schemes helped poor during COVID'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the Anna Bhagya scheme and MGNREGA helped the poor and the lower middle class in the State to cope with the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and bailed them out of distress.

He was speaking after releasing a book titled *Guarantee Schemes: Security and Welfare for the Poor*, edited by D. Srinivas Managalli, at Manasagangotri campus of the University of Mysore on Saturday.

Childhood memories

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that he had experienced pangs of hunger and poverty during childhood and this made him introduce the scheme with the objective of ensuring that poor did not go hungry.

ATM theft: ₹67 lakh recovered from accused

One accused was killed in encounter in Tamil Nadu, while another was injured; police teams from A.P. and Odisha arrive for inquiry against six of the arrested in robbery cases filed in their respective States; Thrissur Police chief says the accused targeted SBI ATMs because they are filled with cash

The Hindu Bureau
NAMAKKAL/SALEM

The Tamil Nadu Police said they have recovered ₹67 lakh in cash from the seven-member gang involved in the Kerala ATM robbery on Saturday. Salem Range Deputy Inspector-General E.S. Uma said a gang broke into the ATM kiosks in Thrissur in Kerala on Friday and later they hid the car used for the robbery in a container truck and headed to Tamil Nadu.

The Kerala Police alerted its Tamil Nadu counterparts. The police team managed to stop the truck at Sanniyasipatti and secure the gang. While two accused tried to escape after attacking the police, one accused was killed in a police encounter, and another accused sustained bullet injuries in his legs.

The accused persons were taken to Veppadai police station. The injured person was admitted to Coimbatore Medical College Hospital for treatment.

On information, a special team from the Kerala police came to the Veppadai police station and investigated the accused.

On Saturday, the accused were produced in a Komarapalayam court. The man getting treatment at the Coimbatore hospital is stable, the DIG added.

Speaking to reporters, Namakkal Superintendent of Police S. Rajesh Kannan said that case has been registered under seven sections.

The police bringing ATM robbery accused to the Kumarapalayam Judicial Magistrate Court on Saturday. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Police officials from Andhra Pradesh and Kerala came to Namakkal fior an inquiry against the accused. The Odisha Police contacted through phone regarding an ATM burglary in their State. Cases are pending against a few accused persons in various States and in Krishangiri. The exact amount looted by them in various States is yet to be known. From Delhi, two accused came by flight, three came in a container truck and two came in the car. They assembled in Chennai and from there they reached Thrissur in the truck and car. The accused did not have any guns, the SP added.

Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police Shankar Jiwal told *The Hindu*, "There is a greater coordination between neighbouring States. When our counterparts in Kerala identified that they were moving in a container truck, they immediately disseminated it through WhatsApp to us. Later, it got transmitted to the SP concerned. Our investigation revealed that the gang had been involved in repeated similar offences. Most of them are from Palwal district in Haryana. We are tallying all cases for proper investigation and a special team has been formed. They will continue the investigation".

To move for custody

The Thrissur Police will move a court for a production warrant to get the custody of all the six accused.

R. Ilango, Thrissur City Police Commissioner, said the probe has revealed that SBI ATMs are mostly targeted considering that more cash is being filled in them. Commercial container lorries returning empty after unloading the consignments are being used for concealing the vehicles used for such robberies. Since an encounter was involved, more details would be known only after due judicial procedures.

(With inputs from Kochi)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with gusty winds/lightning likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.6	26.5	Kozhikode	—	34.2	26.0
Ahmedabad	0.4	30.4	24.8	Kurnool	—	35.0	24.3
Aizawl	5	33.0	22.5	Lucknow	11	26.7	23.3
Allahabad	33	33.6	26.0	Madurai	0.1	39.1	26.7
Bengaluru	—	30.0	21.4	Mangaluru	2	31.0	23.2
Bhopal	45	29.4	24.0	Mumbai	52	28.7	24.4
Bhubaneswar	0.6	29.0	25.4	Mysuru	10	33.7	20.0
Chandigarh	21.1	32.1	23.1	New Delhi	—	33.6	25.2
Chennai	9	33.5	26.5	Patna	0.6	31.1	25.0
Coimbatore	—	34.8	24.0	Port Blair	—	31.6	25.2
Dehradun	34	29.4	22.6	Puducherry	9	34.1	26.8
Gangtok	—	—	—	Pune	4.4	29.1	22.4
Goa	10	31.2	24.2	Raipur	—	34.0	24.3
Guwahati	—	32.6	24.6	Ranchi	5	30.8	23.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0	Shillong	1.2	24.9	17.0
Hyderabad	—	31.9	23.5	Shimla	0.7	25.6	17.2
Imphal	—	29.1	22.7	Srinagar	32	26.6	13.8
Jaipur	—	33.1	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.3	34.8	24.8
Kochi	—	30.6	26.0	Tiruchi	—	37.1	26.0
Kohima	—	20.8	16.0	Vijayawada	0.3	34.4	26.2
Kolkata	11	34.2	26.4	Visakhapatnam	31	32.2	24.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday** —

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..27	33	 74	66	
Bengaluru	...7	..15	83	 61	76	
Chennai	.20	2	26	 77	...105	
Delhi	...5	..35	57	 34	...107	
Hyderabad	.25	..32	36	 49	56	
Kolkata	...4	..42	26	 17	36	
Lucknow	.11	7	54	 24	61	
Mumbai	...4	..26	49	 34	45	
Pune	...7	..13	27	 49	46	
Visakhapatnam	...8	..41	17	 73	80	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Indians lose ₹1.5L to cyber criminals every minute: Experts

Lavpreet Kaur
HYDERABAD

Citizens are losing anywhere between ₹1.3 - ₹1.5 lakh to cyber criminals every minute in India. This comes at a time when the recovery rate average for the country has been pegged lower than 20%.

These estimates were shared by Bhavesh Mishra, Deputy Secretary, Telangana IT and Electronics Department speaking at the ISACA Annual Cyber Security Conference at Madhapur on Saturday.

Underscoring that the Third World War could be a 'mathematician war', Mr. Mishra called companies dealing with Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security (the codebreakers) to set up shop in the 200-acre AI City unveiled by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy earlier in September to tackle the growing menace of cybercrimes.

Meanwhile, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty said cybercrime today is over 30% of the cognisable crimes in the commissionerate.

This may soon rise to 50% in the time to come, he added.

National Security Council Joint Secretary Narendra Nath, IT and Electronics Deputy Secretary Bhavesh Mishra, and Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty at the ISACA Annual Cyber Security Conference in Madhapur on Saturday.

Talking about the role of police (and regulatory authorities) in curbing cybercrime in the State, the official stressed on focus on prevention.

"We need to move away from just doing 'postmortem' (after the fraud is done) to actually addressing the situation before it's all lost," he said.

Underlining the dynamic nature of cybercrimes, Mr. Mohanty highlighted an urgent need to speed up the regulatory framework with coordination between government and industries.

The official also called out banks to strengthen their Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures, improve oversight and audit and ensure compliance to regulation.

"Several investigations have revealed that multiple companies associated with the same address and with common directors are involved in cybercrime. It is as if ready-made companies are prepared in India and handed over to individuals who want to create frauds," the official said.

The conference saw industry leaders, including bureaucrats, bankers, consultants and technology experts, share insights on the future of cybersecurity in the era of AI and strategies for managing and protecting data privacy.

Stressing that security should be added as a 'functional requirement', G. Narendra Nath, Joint Secretary, National Security Council, Government of India, said citizens should be involved in co-creation of services as a pilot step before the launch.

TTD cancels VIP break darshan on October 1

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has cancelled the VIP break darshan and the weekly '*Asta dala pada padmaradhana*' seva on October 1 in connection with the Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam that would be observed as a prelude to the annual Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara scheduled to start from October 4.

The TTD declared that it would not entertain any recommendation letters the previous day. However, VIPs arriving in person would be extended the darshan, in accordance with the protocol.

Get, set, row

Fast and steady: Karichal Chundan (snakeboat), rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club, won the 70th edition of the Nehru Trophy on Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha on Saturday. SURESH ALLEPPEY

Siddaramaiah's video praising Governor's role goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Even as the Karnataka Congress government strongly objected to the functioning of the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, a video of the Chief Minister appreciating the Governor's role during the BJP government in 2011 is being widely circulated.

In the old video, Mr. Siddaramaiah is heard saying: "The President of India is the Constitutional head of the country. Governors work as representatives of the President. The Governor's responsibility is to ensure that the State government works under limits of the constitution." Further, he says: "The Governor exercises his powers and cautions the State government when it goes wrong and takes action."

Siddaramaiah

'Double standard'

During the press conference on Saturday, Union Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy played the video of Mr. Siddaramaiah and exposed the "double standards" of the Congress leader. Mr. Siddaramaiah had in 2011 when he was the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, defended the then Governor Hansraj Bharadwaj's actions against the then BJP government led by B.S. Yediyurappa. The Governor had sanctioned prosecution of Mr. Yediyurappa. Then the UPA-II government led by Manmohan Singh was ruling at the Centre.

Now, Mr. Siddaramaiah and his Cabinet colleagues have staged several protests against Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot opposing his actions against the government and the Chief Minister. The government has also decided to provide information to the Governor only after approval from it in the Cabinet.

State to extend Hrudaya Jyothi Yojane to all taluks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Based on the success of the Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi Yojane that is currently being implemented in 86 government hospitals, the Karnataka Health Department is now working on extending the scheme in all taluks.

The Health Department named Karnataka's heart attack (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction - STEMI) management project at taluk level as Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi scheme last year.

The project launched to avoid delay in providing diagnosis and treatment to heart attack patients in rural areas is being implemented on a 'hub and spoke' model.

September 29 is observed as World Heart Day.

Beneficiaries under the Puneeth Rajkumar Hrudaya Jyothi Yojane

- Total patients who presented with chest pain since March 2023: **2,69,091**
- Total ECGs done: **2,79,787**
- Lives saved: **2,363** (including 390 aged below 45)
- Patients who required angioplasty and stent: **849**
- Patients who required bypass surgery: **8**
- Patients treated with tenecteplase injection since it was started in July 2024: **245**
- All the patients are followed up till six months after discharge

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told *The Hindu* on Saturday that based on the success of the scheme, it would now be extended across the State. "As of now, 86 hospitals (15 districts and 71 taluk hospitals) are functioning as 'spoke' centres. Besides, 10 'hubs' were created in 16 super-specialty hospitals, including Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. As the scheme is doing very well, we are working on shortly extending the scheme in all taluks," he said.

Lives saved

Since March 2023, of the 2,69,091 patients who presented with chest pain in these 86 healthcare facilities, doctors have been able to save the lives of 2,363 patients, including 390 aged below 45.

Besides, doctors were able to save the lives of 245 patients, who presented with symptoms of heart attack since July 2024 by administering tenecteplase injection, a first-line treatment for heart attack, under the scheme. This injection is used to treat myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) as soon as possible (usually within nine hours) after the onset of symptoms.

While private hospitals charge over ₹25,000 for one tenecteplase injection, the Health Department has been providing it for free to the patients under the scheme since this July. All critical patients are being followed for up to six months to check their health condition, post-discharge, which in turn is helping in the reduction of the morbidity burden of the State.

AI technology

Using artificial intelligence (AI) technology, the doctors were able to detect if the patients' condition was critical and if they required the tenecteplase injection.

Mr. Gundu Rao said anyone who has symptoms of chest pain can visit the 'spoke' centres and get an ECG done immediately. "Through AI technology, doctors are able to detect if their condition is critical or not, within four or five minutes. If the patient is in critical condition, he/she will be administered the expensive tenecteplase injection free of cost," said the Minister.

Outsourced child protectors raise concern about job security

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"We have qualifications like LLB and LLM, but we get only ₹10,000 to ₹25,000 as salary per month, which is not enough to take care of our families. We do not have job security, we don't even get minimum wages, and we are allowed only one day leave per month, and even weekends are not free because this job requires us to be active 24/7," said Bharatesh B. Sheelavantar, State president, Karnataka State Child Protection Employees Association, on Saturday, raising concerns about the working conditions of child protectors who work under the government. In 2015, the government partnered with agencies which help with the rescue of children from various types of abuse, such as child labour, child marriage, trafficking, and sexual abuse, and started employing social workers as outsourced agents who are at service 24/7 at the helpline number 1098. These rescue operations fall under multiple acts implemented by the government, including the Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Adolescent and Child Labour Eradication Act, 2006.

However, these workers say they have no job security, they do not get leaves and do not get benefits such as insurance as they are hired by agencies on a temporary basis.

"Maternity leave was only implemented in 2021, but paternity leave is still not allowed, even though doctors advise we should stay beside our spouse when they are giving birth. Otherwise, sick leaves are also not allowed," said Mr. Sheelavantar. "Additionally, there are some facilities that are lacking even for the children we rescue. We have one vehicle only per district for the children."

Varalakshmi, Centre of Indian Trade Union State president said, "Child rights service is very important. There should be basic wages, leaves, and security given to the workers who toil every day."

From Page One

Pakistan PM's criticism a travesty, says India

He said India had "thoughtlessly spurned Pakistan's proposals for a mutual strategic restraint regime" in the nuclear context.

The Pakistani Prime Minister had accused the government of conducting a "classic settler colonial project" in Jammu & Kashmir, following its reorganisation by the government on August 5, 2019.

In a segment on Islamophobia, Mr. Sharif had said the "most alarming manifestation of Islamophobia" was the "Hindu supremacist agenda" in India.

"It is ridiculous that a nation that committed genocide in 1971 and which persecutes its minorities relentlessly, even now, dare speak about intolerances and phobias," the Indian diplomat said, referring to the war for independence in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Ms. Mangalanandan said Pakistan's fingerprints were on many global terror incidents and that it had hosted Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden (who was killed by U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in 2011).

"We know that Pakistan will seek to counter the truth with more lies. Repetition will change nothing," Ms. Mangalanandan said.

In its Right of Reply, Pakistan's response included suggestions that India was conducting "assassinations and attempted murders of political dissidents on North American soil", a reference to the alleged assassination plot against Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in which the accused are Indian citizens.

With new scheme, sun shines on RTS

The rest of the States all have installed capacity in the triple-digits, with a cumulative national capacity of 13,889 MW.

PMSY beneficiaries are now a strong support base of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a Union Minister said recently during a background briefing on the 100 days of the government.

There are no official estimates of the number of households with RTS in these States, but with average ratings of 3 kW or 5 kW per household, the prime target of the PMSY, there are likely to be about 8 lakh to 13 lakh such households in Gujarat, 5 lakh to 8 lakh in Maharashtra, and 4 lakh to 2.5 lakh households in Rajasthan.

The popularity of RTS in Gujarat received a major fillip in 2019 with the launch of the Surya Gujarat scheme that gave subsidies up to 40% for systems up to 3 kW, comparable to the current PMSY scheme. The State government has received nearly 13 lakh registrations over the past four or five months, officials said.

Indeed, even before the PMSY was launched in February 2024, Gujarat already had an installed RTS capacity of 3,455 MW in an estimated 7 lakh to 10 lakh households as of March 2024, according to data from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

"Gujarat has generally had a favourable environment for solar but following the announcement of the scheme, some surprising trends have emerged. As of June 2024, the most number of applications for the PMSY have come from Assam (2.23 lakh) followed by Gujarat (2.1 lakh) and Maharashtra (1.9 lakh). The direct push from the Prime Minister is a major reason for the scheme's popularity," said Prabhakar Sharma, senior consultant at JMK Research, who tracks the renewable energy sector.

However, the promise of "zero electricity bills" is not a given for everyone.

Ceiling of 300 units

"While firm data isn't available, discussions with vendors – or companies that are installing RTS systems – suggest that nearly 90% of new applicants are availing loans to finance installations. Additionally, another feature was that applicants were opting to install 4 kW to 5 kW system, rather than the 3 kW which was subsidised. So anything above say, 300 units, will be charged," Mr. Sharma said.

The PMSY envisages RTS households as independent power producers. Thus, all electricity generated from the RTS is connected to the grid. Unless there is a battery back-up [which the scheme does not fund], a scheduled power cut by the distribution company will result in a power cut in RTS households too.

Along with installing an RTS, the State distribution company also installs a meter which calculates the household's net power consumption. Any usage over 300 units is charged the applicable electricity rates, said Sanjay Kulkarni, who installs RTS systems in Pune. Consumption below 300 units will see consumers being paid by the State at about ₹2 to ₹2.50 per unit.

The major difference from previous versions of the scheme is a doubling of the subsidy on rooftop solar (from an earlier ₹14,500 per kW), loans made available at 7% to 9% interest, an online application system, and an anticipated improvement in service delivery.

As the scheme is now envisaged, 12 public sector banks will offer a collateral-free loan to anyone with a viable roof and grid connectivity who wants to install an RTS. A 3 kW-hour system can generate up to 300 units a month, depending on available sunshine. Currently, an RTS costs about ₹50,000 per kW. A householder can either pay the balance or take a loan. A vendor will appraise the site and then install the system along with an inverter and a smart meter.

Jaishankar hits back at Pakistan in UNGA address

Many countries get left behind due to circumstances beyond their control, but some make conscious choices with disastrous consequences, says External Affairs Minister

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar used his address at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) debate on Saturday to hit back at Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's speech a day earlier. The two countries engaged in rounds of tit-for-tat remarks over Friday and Saturday.

Referring to the UNGA theme this year, 'Leaving no one behind', Mr. Jaishankar said, "Many countries get left behind due to circumstances beyond their control, but some make conscious choices with disastrous consequences," as he named Pakistan.

Suggesting that Pakistan could measure its GDP in terms of radicalisation and exports in terms of terror, he said, "Today, we see the ills it sought to visit on others consume its own society. It can't blame the world. This is only karma."

The Minister referred to Pakistan's assertions on Friday as "bizarre", and said terrorism would have consequences. Pakistan had asserted in its Right of Reply that Jammu and Kashmir was a disputed territory and not an internal matter to India, among other things.

Global diplomacy: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addresses the 79th session of the UNGA on Saturday. AP

"The issue to be resolved between us is now only the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan, and, of course, the abandonment of Pakistan's long-standing attachment to terrorism," Mr. Jaishankar said on Saturday.

Mr. Jaishankar said the sanctioning of terrorists at the United Nations cannot be impeded for political reasons, a reference to China which has historically placed holds on those accused of committing acts of terror against India.

The Minister's speech also included references that presumably included China. He called out unfair economic practices and infrastructure projects that adversely impact sovereignty. "Unfair trade practices threaten jobs, just as unviable projects raise debt levels," he said.

"Any connectivity that clouds sovereignty and territorial integrity acquires strategic connotations, especially when it is not a shared endeavour," he added.

India has objected to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the highlight of China's larger Belt and Road Initiative connectivity project, which goes through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

On the conflict in Ukraine and Gaza, he said the world could not be "fatalistic about the continuation of violence" and must seek urgent solutions.

Mr. Jaishankar called for the reform of multilateralism.

"Countries have extracted more from the international system than they have put into it," he said, saying peace and prosperity were in jeopardy because trust had eroded and processes had come apart.

Communal tension in Odisha's Bhadrak; Internet shut down

In the clash between community members and police on Friday evening, several officials were injured

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Saturday ordered an Internet shutdown in the district headquarters town of Bhadrak after noticing a surge in social media postings fuelling communal tensions. The unrest began when an online inflammatory remark about a community's prophet sparked stone-throwing by agitated crowds.

"The Bhadrak district administration has expressed concerns of misuse of Internet for spreading communal violence. Messaging platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, X and other such media have the potential to inflame communal tension thereby leading to acts causing disturbance of public order in Bhadrak district," State Home Secretary Satyabrata Sahu said in a notification issued on Saturday.

Mr. Sahu ordered, "In order to prevent the spread of such inflammatory and motivated messages and restore peace, it is decided to extend prohibition of the use and access of social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, X and any other through Internet and other medium of data services for 48 hours up to 2 a.m. on September 30 in Bhadrak district."

It is to be noted that prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita were enforced in Bhadrak town on Friday evening after members of a community clashed with police and government officials. The confrontation had erupted when authorities refused permission for a protest march in response to certain social media comments about their prophet, leading to stone-pelting by the agitated crowd. Government vehicles were vandalized and officers on law and order duty received injuries in the stone pelting.

Bhadrak had witnessed communal violence over similar posts in 2017.

Centre likely to block release of film from Pakistan

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Government sources on Saturday signalled that they would seek to block the release of the Pakistani Punjabi-language film *The Legend of Maula Jatt* in India, after, among other things, political backlash from the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena's leader Raj Thackeray. Mr. Thackeray vowed last week to prevent the film's screening at any cinema in Maharashtra.

Perhaps as a result of this backlash, the release plans of the film were modified: it would only come out in Punjab, a producer for the film said last week. The film, directed by Bilal Lashari and starring Fawad Khan, was cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in 2022.

The Pakistani entertainment industry's presence in India has been widely restricted in India, especially after the Uri attack in 2016.

Junior doctors in Bengal to resume cease work after hearing at top court

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Junior doctors of West Bengal on Saturday night said that they would resume total 'cease work' in medical colleges across the State after the hearing of the R.G. Kar case in the Supreme Court on Monday.

The decision was taken after three doctors and three nurses were assaulted following the death of a patient at the College of Medicine and Sagore Dutta Hospital (CMSDH) in Kamarhati in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas near Kolkata on Friday night.

The medics alleged that the attack at Sagore Dutta Hospital have shown the State government has "totally failed" in keeping their promises to provide them security.

"We are giving the State some time and want to hear their submission regarding our security in the Supreme Court on Monday. Then, from 5 p.m. we will start total cease work at all hospitals across Bengal," one of the junior doctors said.

Activists of various left-wing parties stage a protest against the rape-murder at R.G. Kar hospital in Kolkata on September 26. PTI

Junior doctors on September 21 rejoined duties partially at various government-run hospitals in West Bengal after a hiatus of 42 days.

They were on 'cease work' in protest against the rape-murder of an on-duty doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

'Four arrested'

"We arrested four people on Friday. We have also procured CCTV footage from the hospital premises. We will flag other suspects from CCTV visuals and arrest them," Barrackpore Police Commissioner Alok Rajoria said on Saturday during his visit to the hospital.

Junior doctors at the Sagore Dutta Hospital called a strike on Friday night. They chanted slogans demanding the speedy implementation of tightened security measures, and said they did not feel safe.

Doctors and nurses alleged that after the patient was declared dead, the bereaved family attacked and injured doctors, trainees, and nurses who had attended to the patient.

"They threw utensils at us, they dragged doctors by their hands, and manhandled female staff. Women doctors had to flee and lock themselves in a room to escape," one of the protesting junior doctors at the CMSDH said on Saturday.

Junior doctors further alleged that the police did not intervene on time and arrived half an hour after the doctors' call for help, despite a newly set up police outpost within the hospital's premises.

"The patient was severely sick for the past five days and was in poor condition when she was admitted on Friday. Our doctors and nurses did their best. There was no medical negligence here," the Medical Superintendent and Vice Principal of the CMSDH, Sujay Mistri, said on the matter.

(with PTI inputs)

Trinamool suspends two for making short film

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress in West Bengal suspended two leaders of its youth wing who have made a short film about the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder incident and the subsequent protests. The short film titled *Agamani* was allegedly made without any "party permission".

Trinamool leaders Rajanya Haldar and Prantik Chakraborty were suspended for anti-party activities on Friday night, Trinamool Chhatra Parishad State president Trinankur Bhattacharjee said.

Suspended party leaders Ms. Haldar and Mr. Chakraborty insisted that the film was mostly about women empowerment. Ms. Haldar also said that she has no idea why they were suspended but insisted that "this story is not just about the R.G. Kar victim."

UN expert criticises punitive demolition by States

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Balakrishnan Rajagopal has told the Supreme Court that the State-driven, punitive and arbitrary demolition of homes and commercial establishments is an "aggravated form of human rights violation".

The Rapporteur, in an application on Friday, pointed to the danger of using punitive demolition by the State as a tool for land-grabbing. "All arbitrary demolitions are *void ab initio* in law, and no legal title or right may be changed on the site where a demolished structure stood. This is an important guarantee to ensure that in the guise of demolitions for technical breaches of the law, land grab from vulnerable individuals and communities is not condoned," he pointed out.

Mr. Rajagopal, represented by advocates Vrinda Grover, Aakarsh Kamra, Soutik Banerjee and Devika Tulsiani, sought the top court's permission to intervene in the 'bulldozer demolition' case scheduled to come up for hearing before a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan on October 1.

The court had ordered a stay on illegal demolitions using bulldozers on September 17 in a hearing that witnessed scathing remarks from Justice Viswanathan, who criticised States such as Uttar Pradesh for "glorification, grandstanding and even justifications" for razing the private homes and properties of undertrials and their immediate family members.

Mr. Rajagopal said punitive demolitions amounted to "cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment". Demolition of private property as a means of crime control and maintenance of public order was simply illegal, he submitted.

Taking action: Authorities demolish the house of an accused in a rape-murder case in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh in 2023. PTI

'Over 7 lakh evicted'

The Rapporteur stated that India was witness to a "worrying rise of evictions of mostly marginalised and poor communities in recent years".

"Data reveal that from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2023, around 7.4 lakh people lost their homes as a result of State-driven demolitions. The scale and pace of these evictions reached unprecedented levels in 2023, with 5,15,752 people evicted and 1,07,449 homes demolished across the country. The data also reveal that 31% of the people forcibly evicted during this period belonged to historically marginalised groups, including the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, nomadic communities, migrant workers, and religious minorities," Mr. Rajagopal reported.

Forced evictions invariably lead to an increase in homelessness. Arbitrary use of State power to destroy homes was a violation of the right to live in security, peace and dignity. Demolitions that evict individuals into homelessness or that destroy personal moveable property were violations of international human rights law, the UN Rapporteur noted.

The U.P. government had maintained in the top court that the demolitions were done in compliance with municipal law as a punishment against encroachments and violation of building codes.

Countering this argument, Mr. Rajagopal responded that demolishing entire homes or shops that were in technical or minor violations of building codes or other regulations was a "disproportionate measure, which fails to respect due process under international law".

Resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) say that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his honour and reputation". The right to security of tenure and freedom from the threat of forced eviction are recognised as fundamental human rights under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). India is a party to both ICCPR and ICESCR.

CEC reviews Maharashtra's preparedness for election

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar said on Saturday that the Maharashtra Assembly election had to be conducted before November 26, as the current Assembly's term ended then.

After reviewing the State's poll preparedness for two days, Mr. Kumar mentioned that political parties have requested the announcement of poll dates, keeping in mind festivals such as Deepavali. "The term of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly is ending on November 26 and election has to be completed before that... All political parties have asked us to consider the upcoming festivals while announcing the election dates... I am confident that Maharashtra will actively contribute to the festival of democracy," he said.

Responding to a question from *The Hindu* regarding official transfers and postings - particularly concerning those heading key departments on extensions after retirement - Mr. Kumar said during polls all officers are placed under the Election Commission on deemed deputation.

The CEC laid down the security arrangements to ensure "level playing field" in the polls. He issued a warning against the use of fake news and deepfakes on social media, pledging strict action.

Congress is 'anti-Dalit', causes instability: Modi

In a scathing attack on the Opposition party, the PM alleges that the Congress had failed to deliver on its OROP promises, and it believes in the enemies of the nation and not the armed forces

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and other BJP leaders during a public meeting in Hisar on Saturday for the Assembly election. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday brought to focus the 2016 "surgical strike" to attack the Congress in the run-up to the Assembly election in Haryana.

He accused the Opposition party of disrespecting the credibility of the Indian defence forces.

"Today is September 28, when the surgical strike was carried out [in 2016]. India firmly conveyed to the bosses of terrorists that India now hits by entering their homes. But what did the Congress do? They [the Congress] asked our Army to provide proof of a surgical strike. Instead of believing in our Army, the Congress believed in our enemies. Would the nationalist people of Haryana tolerate the Congress?" Mr. Modi said at an election rally in Hisar.

False promises

"For years, the Congress kept making false promises about the 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) scheme for Army men but never implemented it. The OROP is an example that shows the Congress never works towards the welfare of our Army and soldiers. The BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) came to power and immediately implemented the OROP," Mr. Modi said.

The PM said the Congress was a synonym for instability.

"Wherever the Congress is present, there can never be stability. The party can't even unite its own leaders. How will it bring stability to the State? Everyone can see the tussle among Congress leaders for becoming Chief Minister... In Haryana, every faction of the party is fighting against each other, and amid this factionalism, the doors for Dalits and the Backward Classes are closed," Mr. Modi said.

He accused the Congress of being "anti-Dalit". "In Haryana, during the Congress regime, Dalits faced atrocities, but the Congress kept quiet. The Dalit community will never forget these atrocities and never forgive the Congress," the Prime Minister said.

'Only a vote bank'

He said the farmer community had never been more than a vote bank for the Congress, which was the "most selfish party".

"The Congress has never been serious about solving farmers' problems. It's only the BJP that works towards their welfare. We are giving ₹6,000 annually under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme to farmers because we respect them. The Congress is promising the moon to farmers in Haryana but I want to ask them – in Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh, where they are in power, why they don't fulfil their promises. In Karnataka, during the Congress's present regime, hundreds of farmers have died by suicide. The truth is that the Congress is not bothered about farmers' lives. They only make false promises and have a history of betrayal," Mr. Modi said.

The Haryana Assembly election will be held on October 5, and the main contenders are the Congress and the ruling BJP.

Yechury helped build INDIA bloc and held it together, say leaders

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On one platform: Rahul Gandhi greets other INDIA leaders at an event in New Delhi on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Leaders from various political parties, academics, intellectuals and people from all walks of life met at Talkatora Stadium here on Saturday to mourn CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

The condolence meeting, organised by the party, saw INDIA bloc leaders hailing the contributions of Yechury in building a formidable alliance against the ruling BJP-led NDA.

In an emotional speech, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Yechury was a friend who did not have the characteristic "traits of politicians". "He was a bridge between the Congress and other parties in the INDIA alliance. He held the architecture [of the INDIA bloc and the erstwhile United Progressive Alliance] together, because he was flexible, because he listened and he didn't have the common traits that a lot of politicians have - anger, aggression, arrogance... this is rare in our work," Mr. Gandhi said.

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, said Yechury worked hard to build bridges between several Opposition parties and form the INDIA bloc. Mr. Kharge said Yechury played a crucial role in the process and as a result the ruling party failed to get a majority. "Now, this is a minority government. They are unable to bring the bad laws they wanted to pass in Parliament," Mr. Kharge said, crediting Yechury's relentless efforts for the strength of INDIA.

The condolence resolution, read out by veteran CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat, listed the efforts made by Yechury to build a students' movement in the 1970s.

Chairing the meeting, former CPI(M) general secretary Prakash Karat said his association with Yechury started 50 years ago and his death was a big jolt not just to the CPI(M) but to the secular and democratic forces too.

Former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu* N. Ram said Yechury was brilliant, charismatic and amiable. He said Yechury's life was a model of integrity, commitment, sacrifice and deep ideological and political anchoring and fortitude. Mr. Ram added that Yechury was devoted to the cause of freedom of speech and expression, in particular the media freedom, and to the fight to defend the secular and democratic character of the Republic.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, DMK MP Kanimozhi, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Jha, NCP (SP)'s Supriya Sule, JMM's Mahua Maji, AAP's Gopal Rai, CPI general secretary D. Raja, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, RSP general secretary Manoj Bhattacharya, Forward Bloc general secretary G. Devarajan, economist Prabhat Patnaik and activist Teesta Setalvad addressed the gathering.

Congress leaders Bhupinder Hooda and Ashok Gehlot with others during a press conference in Chandigarh, on Saturday. PTI

Congress releases detailed manifesto for Haryana polls

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Congress on Saturday released its detailed manifesto for the Assembly election in Haryana, slated for October 5.

As the party is attempting to wrest power from the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), it has promised to make a special task force (STF) to make Haryana free of drugs in its manifesto for the 2024 Assembly election. Apart from the seven promises released by the party earlier, the Congress also promised to provide jobs to retired 'Agniveers' and restart the 'Padak Lao-Pad Pao' scheme for sportspersons.

Senior party observer of Haryana elections and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and State president Chaudhary Udai Bhan, were present.

Various promises

The manifesto promised the electorate to provide two lakh permanent recruitments in the State, along with a cashless insurance scheme that will be implemented in Haryana for free treatment up to ₹25 lakh on the lines of the Rajasthan Congress's Chiranjeevi Yojana.

It was also promised that a martyr's memorial would be built in memory of 736 farmers who lost their lives in the farmers' movement against the Union government's now-repealed farm laws, and a government job would be given to a family member by giving them the status of martyr. Every grain grown by the farmer will be sold on the legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP), the manifesto added.

The Congress also promised that the creamy layer limit of the backward classes would be increased from an annual income of ₹6 lakh to ₹10 lakh. A caste survey will be conducted so that every community in the State can get rights on a social and economic basis, it said.

Earlier, on September 18, the Congress announced its 'seven guarantees' promising to pay a monthly allowance of ₹2,000 to every woman aged between 18 and 60, besides announcing that it would give 300 units of free electricity to all households if the party assumed power in the State.

NDA allies finalised seat sharing talks in Jharkhand, says Himanta

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP's joint in-charge for the Jharkhand election, announced on Saturday that seat sharing among the allies of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had been finalised, and the announcement would be made after the occasion of 'Pitra Paksha'.

The All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) and the Janata Dal(U) will contest the election with the BJP under the NDA banner.

"We will have an alliance with the AJSU and JD (U) this election. The seat sharing of the alliance is 99% completed and talks on just one or two seats are left. Soon after Pitra-Paksha, we will announce the [details of] seat sharing," Mr. Sarma said.

Pitra Paksha commenced on September 17 and will continue till October 2.

Mr. Sarma, however, did not mention the Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV) led by Union Minister Chirag Paswan, which is part of the NDA at the Centre.

Earlier, Mr. Paswan had announced that his party would contest alone if talks on the alliance were not fruitful. The LJP(RV) had said that the party had a strong position in 14 Assembly constituencies.

AJSU supremo Sudesh Mahato had a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi in the presence of Mr. Sarma earlier this month. Party sources said the AJSU had demanded 16 seats.

Similarly, the JD(U) led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has demanded 11 seats in Jharkhand, citing the party's alliance with the NDA in Bihar.

Of the 81 seats in the Jharkhand Assembly, sources in the BJP said the party would give not more than 10 seats to its allies and that it would contest the rest.

Hemant Soren's letter

Mr. Sarma also spoke of the letter from Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, in which the latter had asked for the classification of the 'tea tribes' of north-eastern Assam as Scheduled Tribes instead of Other Backward Classes.

"Hemant Soren has written a letter to me and I will reply to him in writing. The media should ask why Kalpana Soren cannot contest from any tribal seat. The answer lies in his own family," Mr. Sarma said.

Ms. Kalpana Soren belonged to an ST community from Odisha and people from outside the State could not claim reservation under the Scheduled categories in Jharkhand, Mr. Sarma said.

Twenty-eight seats are reserved for the STs in Jharkhand. Ms. Kalpana Soren is the MLA for the unreserved Gandey Assembly constituency.

'BJP using J&K to stir emotions; Cong. will restore Statehood'

Press Trust of India
BISHNAH

The Congress will restore Jammu and Kashmir's Statehood, party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said on Saturday while she slammed the BJP for using the Union Territory as a pawn to "stir emotions" elsewhere in the country.

Ms. Gandhi also criticised Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha saying the current administration was a "puppet" government being run with remote control.

"If our government comes to power, we will immediately restore your Statehood. We will also revive the tradition of the Darbar move," Ms. Gandhi said at a public rally here.

"I found it amusing when the Home Minister said in his speech that if you want Statehood back, you must vote for us. But the fact is, they are the ones who took it away...," Ms. Gandhi said.

She also attacked PM Narendra Modi, saying he was not serious about the concerns of the people of J&K. BJP leaders have turned J&K into a pawn in their political chess game as policies are not being made for the people of the region, Ms. Gandhi said.

Youth will defeat BJP in every election, says Kharge

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday said there is no bigger issue in the country than unemployment.

"If we take a closer look at the latest data of Periodic Labour Force Survey, this government data is not able to hide the helplessness of the youth," Mr. Kharge said. "Every single youth of India, whose employment has been snatched away by your government, will do only one thing – defeat the BJP in every election," he said.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/78 -2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Item	Estimated Amount (in Rs.) Lakhs / Tender Fee in (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0522/0924 [RFX No. 5000001294] [1st Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 25MVA, 220kV Voltage Class (1 No.); 50MVA, 220kV Voltage Class (5 Nos.); 50MVA, 132kV Voltage Class (16 Nos.) and 200MVA, 220kV Voltage Class (2 Nos.) Power Transformers/ICTs along with New Uninhibited High Grade Mineral Insulating Oil for Augmentation Schemes under Amravati, Karad, Nagpur, Pune Zones of MSETCL	Rs.11861.98 / Rs. 25000.00 (excluding taxes)	28.10.2024 Up to 16:00 Hrs. / 28.10.2024 at 16:15 Hrs.
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	**Date:** 04.10.2024 **Time:** 14:30 Hrs. **Venue:** 8th Floor, MSETCL C.O. 'Prakashganga' Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
Tel. No. 022- 69852717 / Cell no:-8329909813
Email : ceom@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp5@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

E-TENDER NOTICE

MSETCL SRM invites online RFx (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.
E-tender No./ RFx No. 7000033696 Name of work : "Work of replacement of existing 0.4 ACSR Conductor by equivalent High Performance conductor for 220 kV Kalwa – Colourchem, 220 kV Kalwa – Temghar & 220 kV Colourchem – Temghar Line & Bay strengthening work at 220/22 kV Temghar Substation, 220 kV Colourchem Substation, 400 kV Kalwa Substation and 220 kV Kalwa Substation under EHV O&M Circle, Kalwa" Estimated Cost: Rs. 49,18,62,853/- Tender Fees : Rs. 25,000/-+ GST.
Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents: From 30.09.2024 @ 15.00 Hrs to 21.10.2024 @ 15.30 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

-Sd-
CHIEF ENGINEER, EHV PC (O&M) Zone, **Vashi**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, ग्रामीण वृत, जोधपुर
क्रमांक: 1571 दिनांक: 25/09/2024

निविदा सूचना संख्या : 02 वर्ष 2024-2025
NIB No. PWD2425A1789

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सड़क एवं पुल निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 03 पैकेज / कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रु. 702.00 लाख है के लिए ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	:	30 सितम्बर 2024, 9:30 बजे से 21 अक्टूबर 2024, सायं 06.00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in** व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
1. PWD2425WSOB06450 2. PWD2425WSOB06451
3. PWD2425WSOB06452

(विनीत गुप्ता)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. ग्रामीण वृत जोधपुर

DIPR/C/9211/2024

INBRIEF

Odisha CM tells police to treat women with utmost respect

In the wake of the alleged custodial abuse of a woman and her fiance who is an Army officer at a Bhubaneswar police station recently, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi on Saturday advised police personnel to treat women who come to stations to file complaints with utmost respect and care. Addressing IPS officers in Bhubaneswar on Saturday, Mr. Majhi said, "Women should be received cordially, shown proper behavior, and given a patient hearing, regardless of the time they come to police station – whether it is during the day, evening, or even late at night, such as 2 a.m." He also emphasised regular training and sensitisation of field-level officers.

Calcutta HC cites lapses in probe of sexual assault case

The Calcutta High Court has directed disciplinary action against three officers of the Kolkata Police in connection with a case involving a sexual assault on the wife of an IAS officer. Citing lapses in the investigation, Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj directed the case to be transferred to the Deputy Commissioner of Women Police, Lalbazaar and cancelled the anticipatory bail of the accused. "The petitioner is clearly a victim of continuous torture and oppression. The investigation officer never bothered to inform the victim of the application being moved by the accused, further exacerbating the victim's distress," Justice Bharadwaj said, in the order dated September 27.

DPIIT working on 100 rules to decriminalise minor offences

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Saturday said it is working on about 100 rules and laws of various departments to decriminalise minor offences to promote ease of doing business. The exercise is part of bringing the second edition of Jan Vishwas Bill. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, which was rolled out last year with the primary objective of decriminalising minor offences across 42 Central Acts, eliminated 183 criminal provisions across 19 ministries and departments. A Joint Parliamentary Committee, which reviewed the Bill, has recommended extending the exercise to further Acts, it said. PTI

Tripura government officials lock two CPI(M) offices

The district administration in Gomati district in south Tripura on Saturday sealed two properties belonging to the main Opposition party Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] over alleged encroachment of government land. Officials accompanied by security contingents closed down CPI(M) offices in Natunbazar and Ampinagar areas and posted notices warning against trespassing on encroached government land . The CPI(M) protested the locking of their party offices, stating that they had received a notice from the administration a year ago and had contested the eviction notice in court.

SUDOKU

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	9		6		1			
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	1	6	8	2	4	3	7
3	2	4	1	7	5	6	8	9
8	6	7	3	9	4	1	5	2
4	8	9	7	5	6	2	1	3
1	3	6	2	4	9	5	7	8
7	5	2	8	1	3	9	6	4
2	1	3	4	6	8	7	9	5
6	4	5	9	3	7	8	2	1
9	7	8	5	2	1	3	4	6

Two jets came too close for comfort over Arabian Sea

El Al and Qatar Airways Boeing 777s came within a minute of each other, though standard separation is 10 minutes; preliminary probe shows no cockpit alerts were issued; two air traffic controllers suspended, sent for corrective training

S. Vijay Kumar
Jagriti Chandra
CHENNAI/DELHI

Close shave: Qatar Airways and El Al aircraft were in air space managed by the Mumbai ATC. REUTERS

Two Boeing 777 aircraft – one belonging to El Al and the other to Qatar Airways – came within a minute of collision at 35,000 feet over the Arabian Sea on March 24, in an area managed by Mumbai's air traffic controllers. On this route, planes are expected to stay at least 10 minutes apart.

The near miss came to light after a preliminary probe report was recently published by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau, a division of the Union Civil Aviation Ministry. The report said that no cockpit alerts had been generated to warn the pilots of the two jets. According to sources, at least two of the air traffic controllers on duty during the incident have been suspended and sent for corrective training.

Dangerously close

According to the AAIB's preliminary report, the two aircraft breached the standard separation at 7.36 a.m. IST on March 24 . El Al flight ELY-81 was flying from Tel Aviv to Bangkok and the Qatar Airways flight QTR-8E was bound for Male from Doha.

Both the aircraft were on their designated flight route and flying at the same level, that is, at 35,000 feet. The breach of separation took place at waypoint 'GOLEM', which is over the Arabian Sea and falls in the Mumbai flight information region.

The standard lateral distance on this oceanic route is 10 minutes. However, these two aircraft were dangerously close, with the minimum separation between them narrowing to just 9.1 nautical miles, which means that the two planes were just one minute apart, according to the report.

No cockpit alerts

It said that there was no cockpit alert generated to warn pilots of a collision threat by the Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), and neither was there any air traffic control (ATC) alert. The investigation is yet to ascertain whether this was because the two aircraft were not close enough to produce the TCAS alert, or if there was any other reason.

"The final report will also be published in due course," AAIB chief G.V.G. Yugandhar told *The Hindu* in response to queries about what may have led to the safety breach.

Flight speed unknown

Former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser Captain A. Mohan Ranganathan said that the TCAS did not generate traffic advisories or resolution advisories because the system would trigger an alert only if the two aircraft were within close proximity to each other with a threat of a collision. Such a scenario would occur when the separation ranged between 20 and 45 seconds, he said.

As both aircraft were cruising at 35,000 ft and without any traffic advisory, the pilots would have been aware of each other's planes, with their positions noted on the cockpit primary flight display based on data from the Mode S transponder. Had visibility levels been good, each of the pilots could have seen the other aircraft. Captain Ranganathan said that to understand the incident, it was important to know the speed at which each aircraft was travelling.

This has not been mentioned in the report. Procedure wise, by applying the 10-minute separation criterion, it was not a pilot error and one would have to look at the actions of the controllers handling the aircraft prior to 'GOLEM', he added.

No TCAS activation

Another aviation expert said that, typically, an aircraft would need to be 40 or 50 seconds away from the other for the TCAS to issue traffic advisories, and around 35 seconds from collision for a resolution advisory to be issued. In this incident, instead of there being a 10-minute separation, it was one minute, which would mean that the aircraft were nine or ten miles apart and probably not on a collision course. This could also explain why the TCAS did not activate, the expert said.

A senior pilot who flies the Boeing 777 aircraft said that the TCAS is usually activated when there is an alert within a range of approximately six nautical miles.

(*With inputs from Murali N. Krishnaswamy*)

Export ban on non-basmati white rice removed

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Union government has decided to allow exports of non-basmati white rice with immediate effect, reversing the ban on such exports imposed in July 2023. However, it has set a minimum export price of $490 a tonne.

A notification of the Department of Commerce issued on Saturday said non-basmati white rice (semi-milled or wholly-milled, whether or not polished or glazed) has been removed from the prohibited list for exports to the free list with immediate effect, subject to the minimum export price. In another notification issued on Friday, the Ministry of Finance reduced the duty on parboiled rice from 20% to 10%.

B.V. Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters' Association, told *The Hindu* that India was exporting 18 million tonnes of non-basmati rice annually before the restrictions were imposed last year. The export of premium varieties of white rice to markets such as Malaysia, Indonesia, and eastern Asian countries will now be revived, he said. "Exports dropped 50% because of the restrictions. We will get back some of the markets lost and the farmers will also benefit," he said. The duty reduction on parboiled rice will relax the demand for the variety abroad, he said.

PM to launch ₹11,200-crore projects for Maharashtra

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch projects worth more than ₹11,200 crore for Maharashtra through video-conferencing on Sunday.

The Prime Minister's Office on Saturday said Mr. Modi will inaugurate the Pune Metro section from the district court to Swargate, which will also mark the completion of the Pune Metro Rail Project (Phase-1).

Women with disabilities seen as 'easy targets': CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice B.V. Nagarathna felicitates Union Minister Annapurna Devi in the presence of CJI Chandrachud in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday highlighted the sexual violence faced by women with disabilities, especially children belonging to the marginalised sections of society. The top judge was addressing the National Annual Stakeholders Consultation on Child Protection here.

"Sexual violence faced by disabled girls highlights the double marginalisation they (women with disabilities) endure... This dual vulnerability may mean that women with disabilities are often perceived as 'easy targets' for sexual violence, influenced by societal perceptions of their diminished capacity and their perceived inability to speak out," the Chief Justice said, while speaking on the topic 'Protection services for children with disabilities'.

The Chief Justice noted how disability often intersected with other marginalised identities such as gender, caste, socio-economic status, and ethnicity, to amplify the discrimination children face.He said the unique needs of persons with disabilities were still, in many cases, viewed as a private, domestic issue rather than a collective, social responsibility.

Laws such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act acknowledged the vulnerability of children with disabilities but their impact on the ground was limited. "The framework remains largely reactive, placing more emphasis on post-offence penalties rather than proactive prevention," the Chief Justice said. He stressed on the establishment of a distinct juvenile justice system as a key obligation of the state under the principle of *parens patriae*.

"We must ask ourselves: Are our justice systems flexible enough to accommodate the unique needs of children with disabilities? Are we building a system that seeks to rehabilitate rather than criminalise, to include rather than marginalise, and to empower rather than limit? We owe it to all children to ensure that the answers to these questions are a resounding 'yes'," the Chief Justice said.

'No ceasefire till we are free from the threat of terror'

Israeli Ambassador says his country is urging India to ban Hamas, end UNRWA funding; he stresses that the operations in Lebanon will end only when the 70,000 Israeli residents evacuated from northern Israel can return safely to their homes without the fear of attacks by Hezbollah terrorists

INTERVIEW

Reuven Azar

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Despite global calls for a ceasefire, Israel will not stop its air strikes and operations in Gaza and Lebanon, said Israel's newly appointed Ambassador to India Reuven Azar. In an interview just ahead of the one-year mark since the October 7 terror attacks, Mr. Azar, who earlier served as Israel's Deputy National Security Adviser, and Foreign Policy Adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said he still hopes to convince India to change its policy on funding UNRWA, which India stepped up to $5 million this year, and on Hamas, which the Modi government has not banned.

With the death of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, will Israel end operations on Lebanon – and agree to a ceasefire now?

The operations in Lebanon will end when the 70,000 Israeli residents evacuated in northern Israel will be able to return safely to their homes free from the threat of Hezbollah terrorists.

So the war will continue?

We have done what we had to, as a result of the fact that our Army wasn't big enough, and we could not simultaneously deal both with the Gaza strip and Lebanon. In the last year, we had to evacuate about 70,000 residents from the north (Israel-Lebanon border areas) because our defence systems, the Iron Dome and others could not defend border areas from direct fire and tank missiles. So, now that we have the attention span and the capability, we are trying to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which says very clearly that Hezbollah forces are not allowed south of the Litani river.

According to figures accepted by the UN, 40,000 people are dead, 15,000 children amongst them, 100 hostages, as you said, still remain in custody... Is the human cost acceptable to Israel ?

If you ask any Israeli in the last 15 years, the last thing Israel wanted to do is to have to go back to Gaza after we left it in 2005 and this is actually one of the reasons that we were surprised on October 7 [2023].

As far as the figures are concerned, we believe that they include people that died of natural causes. We have killed at least 15,000 Hamas and other terrorists, and about 5,000 civilians have died by misfired Hamas rockets, according to our estimates.

There is also the geopolitical cost for Israel: the Abraham Accords have been put on hold, countries such as Ireland, Spain, Norway have now recognised Palestine.

The underlying issue here is that despite this setback created by the war, the cooperation between Israel and its neighbours is increasing in the military and intelligence sphere. And there are some countries that are very short-sighted, like the countries you mentioned, Spain, Ireland, etc., because apparently they don't understand that.

They are recognising Palestine. India recognises Palestine.

But that was in another era. We think that in the current context, recognising Palestine in the context of the attacks of October 7 would actually send a message to the terrorists that they can continue doing this.

India has also not banned Hamas, or designated it as a terror organisation and it has increased its funding of UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees). These all run counter to what Israel has asked for...

I hope that we'll be able to convince the Indian government, as we've done with other governments – like the U.S. government, to stop funding UNRWA.

On Hamas, I will just say that this may take time, we will continue presenting our information, and it's going to be up to the sovereign government [in India] to decide its policy.

(Full interview is at thlink.in/Reuven)

INBRIEF

U.S. FDA issues 4 observations to Biocon facility in Bengaluru

An active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) facility of Biocon in Bengaluru has been issued four observations by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration post an inspection. "The U.S. FDA conducted a surveillance inspection of our API facility (Site 2) located in Bengaluru from September 23-27. Four observations were cited at the end of the inspection, which the company will be addressing within the stipulated time," Biocon said in a filing on Saturday.

Lupin's API, finished product unit gets FDA observations

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued six observations to Lupin after an inspection of the drugmaker's active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and finished product manufacturing facility in Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh. "The inspection closed with three observations each on the API and finished product side," Lupin said in a filing on Saturday. The U.S. FDA had the inspected the facility (Unit-1) from September 16-27.

Zydus gets U.S. FDA nod for generic prostate cancer drug

Zydus Lifesciences on Saturday said it had received approval from the U.S. health regulator to produce generic prostate cancer treatment drug. The company has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to manufacture Enzalutamide capsules (40 mg), it said in a regulatory filing. Enzalutamide capsules are androgen receptor inhibitors indicated for the treatment of patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. PTI

T.N. to remain 'address' for MNCs, says CM at Tata's ₹9,000-cr. auto unit

Chief Minister Stalin breaks ground for Tata Motors' greenfield plant at Ranipet near Chennai; facility will produce 2.5 lakh vehicles annually once it attains its full capacity over the next five to seven years, says the automaker

The Hindu Bureau
RANIPET

Tamil Nadu will remain the investment destination of choice for global companies, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin asserted on Saturday after laying the foundation stone for the ₹9,000-crore Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Tata Motors' manufacturing facility in the industrial township of Ranipet.

Expressing confidence that the State would continue to attract overseas investors, Mr. Stalin said, "Tamil Nadu has been India's capital in the automobile sector. Many global automakers like Ford and Renault Nissan have their manufacturing plants in the State," he added.

Higher ground: CM M.K. Stalin speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of Tata Motors in Ranipet. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

Tracing Tata Group's presence in the State, the Chief Minister said the conglomerate had a long relationship with Tamil Nadu as it had invested in diverse sectors in the State.

Be it information technology (IT) or the hospitality industry, Tata Group had a visible presence in the State, including its biggest IT delivery centre that is based in Chennai.

'Jobs for women'

"Their [Tata Group] presence also means jobs especially for educated women. Here, I thank them [Tata Motors] for choosing Ranipet to set up the new plant as it will provide jobs for women in the region and will also help them to sustain their livelihood," he said, adding that the State aimed to become a $1 trillion economy by 2030.

The Tata Motors' new facility would produce next generation sports cars and SUVs for Tata Motors and JLR, its British arm. The plant, that would operate on renewable energy, shall cater to domestic as well as overseas markets.

Production is expected to begin in a phased manner at the plant, which is expected to reach an annual capacity of 2.5 lakh vehicles over the next five to seven years.

"We now intend to build our advanced vehicle manufacturing plant here using cutting-edge manufacturing technology and world-class sustainability practices," said N. Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons.

(With inputs from PTI)

Fire breaks out at Tata facility in Hosur

P. V. Srividya
KRISHNAGIRI

A massive fire broke out at the Tata Electronics facility at Nagamangalam in Denkanikottai, Krishnagiri district, in the early hours of Saturday.

A Fire service official said they received a call at about 5.45 a.m., when the smoke was first noticed, and over 10 vehicles were deployed as the fire continued to spread.

Fire service personnel from Palacodde in Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Bargur, Denkanikottai, Hosur, and Rayakottai were also deployed to put out the fire that had been raging since dawn, the official said.

Up in flames: Smoke billowing out from the Tata Electronics facility in Denkanikottai, where a fire broke out early on Saturday. PTI

The cause of the fire and the extent of damage were yet to be determined.

Four workers, who were asphyxiated in the smoke, were admitted to a private hospital in Hosur. Collector K.M. Sarayu visited the the employees at the hospital. No casualty or injury has been reported so far.

"There has been an unfortunate incident of fire at our plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. Our emergency protocols at the plant ensured that all our employees are safe. The cause of the fire is under investigation and we will take necessary actions to safeguard the interest of our employees and other stakeholders," Tata Electronics said in a release.

The facility, set up at an investment of about ₹5,000 crore for manufacturing iPhone parts, has often been projected as a key project to showcase Hosur's potential to draw large investors.

India seeks bids to supply 6,000 MW of green power

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India is seeking bids to supply 6,000 megawatt (MW) of electricity from renewable energy power projects for assured peak-hour supply with storage, according to a tender issued by State-run SJVN.

India added 10 GW of renewable capacity from April to August, taking its total to about 153 GW, government data showed.

DRL invests $620 mn to acquire Haleon's portfolio

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has invested $620 million in a Swiss subsidiary as part of its proposed acquisition of British firm Haleon's global portfolio of consumer healthcare brands in the nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) category outside of the U.S.

Consequently, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories SA, Switzerland, the subsidiary, allotted 62,00,000 non-convertible preference shares each with a nominal value of $100 on September 27.

The funds infused into DRL SA will be used to acquire Nicotinell and related brands by way of acquisition of all of the quotas of Haleon Group firm Northstar Switzerland SARL incorporated in Switzerland, Dr. Reddy's said in a filing.

The portfolio to be acquired consists of Nicotinell, a global leader in the NRT category with footprint in more than 30 countries spanning Europe, Asia, including Japan, and Latin America, and local market-leading brand names of the product – Nicabate in Australia, Thrive in Canada, and Habitrol in New Zealand and Canada.

The acquisition will be inclusive of all formats such as lozenge, patch, gum as well as pipeline products, in all applicable global markets outside of the U.S., it had said.

'Shriram Life aiming at threefold growth in annual premium equivalent by FY30'

N. Anand
CHENNAI

Shriram Life Insurance Co. Ltd. is aiming at a threefold increase in annual premium equivalent (APE) as part of its Vision 2030, according to its MD and CEO Casparus J.H. Kromhout.

"We ended FY24 with more than ₹900 crore of individual APE and are aiming for about 3x of that by FY30," Mr. Kromhout told *The Hindu*.

"We have a long way to go to achieve the vision. It requires us to do about 25% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) on FY22 data. Can we get to 25%? Doing 25% year-on-year for seven years seems tough as the base keeps growing," he said.

'Some uncertainty'

"In FY23, Shriram Life posted a 24% growth, which was just below its target. In FY24, we did 40% in terms of run rate and were slightly ahead of the curve. In the first half of FY25, the company posted 50% growth with a 131% rise in individual policy sales," Mr. Kromhout said.

"We are hoping to end FY25 close to 50%, but now there's a lot of uncertainty surrounding the special surrender value regulation which comes into force from October 1. I think 30% will be possible, but we will have to wait and see," he noted.

The CEO also said that the company's market share in individual new business premium among private players was still low. Shriram Life has a presence in 15 States. In Andhra Pradesh, it has a 5.2% market share, followed by a 3.6% share in Telangana.

> We are hoping to end FY25 close to 50% (growth), but now there's a lot of uncertainty surrounding the special surrender value regulation which comes into force from October 1
>
> **CASPARUS J.H. KROMHOUT,** MD & CEO, SHRIRAM LIFE

"This is less than 1% in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat. Our next goal is to reach 1% market share in these three States in a year or two, and then take it to 2%," he said.

"Our firm had started settling claims within 48 hours. Now, they are being settled in 12 hours," Mr. Kromhout said, noting that efforts are afoot to to reduce this time further to six hours.

About 90% of the claims are settled within 12 to 48 hours, he said. The firm's claim settlement ratio stood at 98%, and it is trying improve this to 98.5% or 99%, he averred.

Shriram Life Insurance offers various customised solutions with a minimum premium size of ₹20,000 against the industry average of ₹80,000.

பாரதிதாசன் பல்கலைக்கழகம், திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி
BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 024, TAMIL NADU, INDIA
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Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the following posts

Sl. No.	Advertisement No.	Name of the Post	Academic Level	Vacancy
01.	B5/32712/2024 Dated: 29-09-2024	REGISTRAR	Academic Level 14 with rationalized entry pay of Rs.1,44,200/-	01 (One)
02.	B5/32713/2024 Dated:29-09-2024	CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS		01 (One)

Refer our website, at **www.bdu.ac.in**, for details. The last date for receipt of the filled-in application along with its enclosures is **28.10.2024 by 5.45 p.m.** The University reserves the right to fill up or not to fill-up the vacancies notified.

Place : Tiruchirappalli
Date : 29-09-2024
DIPR/990/DISPLAY/2024
REGISTRAR i/c

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD, DIVISION BHILWARA
No.- 2488 Date:- 11.09.2024
NIB CODE : PWD2425A1582
-:Notice Inviting Bid 07/2024-25:-
Bids for CONSULTANCY WORK FOR DPR PREPRATION FOR FOUR LANE ROAD FROM MANDAL BHILWARA HARIPURA CHOURAHA TO DEVGARH DIST. RAJSAMAND are invited form interested bidders upto 6.00 PM Dated 07.10.2024 (Monday). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurment portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in., http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate values of the procument is Rs. 170.50 Lacs, (Total of 1 Bid)
UBN Code:- PWD2425SLOB05725
(Narendra Choudhry)
Executive Engineer
PWD Division Bhilwara
Mob. No. 99835-29510
DIPR/C/9292/2024

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त-झालावाड़
कमरा नं.-158, भूतल (सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग परिसर),
मिनी सचिवालय, झालावाड़
ई-मेल: piu_jhalawar@rediffmail.com/ sejwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in,
फोन नं.: 07432-233336
क्रमांक: 957 दिनांक: 26.09.2024
संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2023-24
NIB No. PWD2425A1580
इस कार्यालय पत्र क्रमांक 915 दिनांक 12.09.2024 द्वारा जारी/ प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2024-25 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है:-

क्र.सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1.	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 20.09.2024 से 30.09.2024 सायं 6.00 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 20.09.2024 से 07.10.2024 सायं 6.00 बजे तक।
2.	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख 20.09.2024 से 30.09.2024 सायं 6.00 बजे तक	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख 20.09.2024 से 07.10.2024 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
3.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 02.10.2024 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 09.10.2024 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे
4.	धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 30.09.2024 सायं 6:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड-कोलाना एयरपोर्ट, झालावाड़ के नाम जमा कराई जानी है, एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क का चालान तथा कार्य हेतु (सर्टिफिकेट ऑफ करेक्टनेस ऑफ बिड डॉक्यूमेंट) शपथ-पत्र राशि रु. 100/- एवं अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।	धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 07.10.2024 सायं 6:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड-कोलाना एयरपोर्ट, झालावाड़ के नाम जमा कराई जानी है, एवं निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, RISL शुल्क का चालान तथा कार्य हेतु (सर्टिफिकेट ऑफ करेक्टनेस ऑफ बिड डॉक्यूमेंट) शपथ-पत्र राशि रु. 100/- एवं अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

S.No.	UBN No.	S. No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2425WS0B05722	2	PWD2425WS0B05723

(हुकम चन्द मीना), अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त-झालावाड़
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Pigs may be transmission route of rat hepatitis E to humans

The Hindu Bureau

New research suggests that pigs may function as a transmission vehicle for a strain of the hepatitis E virus (HEV) common in rats that has recently been found to infect humans. The *Rocahepevirus ratti* strain is called "rat HEV" because rats are the primary reservoir of the virus. Since the first human case was reported in a person with a suppressed immune system in Hong Kong in 2018, at least 20 total human cases have been reported, including in people with normal immune function.

People infected with rat HEV did not report exposure to rats, leaving the cause of infection undefined. The suspected cause during other human HEV infections, in many cases, is consumption of raw pork – making it a potential route for rat HEV as well.

Cloned virus

Researchers have found that a strain of rat HEV isolated from humans could infect pigs and was transmitted among co-housed animals in farm-like conditions.

Rats are common pests in swine barns – suggesting that the pork production industry may be a setting in which rat HEV could make its way to humans.

The study was published recently in *PNAS Nexus*. Hepatitis E is the leading cause of acute viral liver infection in humans worldwide, mostly in developing regions where sanitation is poor.

One strain linked to human disease is known as LCK-3110. The researchers used the viral genomic sequence to construct an infectious clone of LCK-3110. The team first showed the cloned virus could replicate in multiple types of human and mammal cell cultures and pigs.

Researchers then injected pigs with an infectious solution containing the LCK-3110 strain or another HEV strain present in pigs in the U.S., as well as saline as a control condition.

Viral particles in the blood and feces were detected one week later in both groups receiving HEV strains, but levels were higher in pigs infected with rat HEV.

Two weeks later, co-housed pigs that received no inoculations also began to shed rat HEV virus in their feces – an indication the virus had spread through the fecal-oral route.

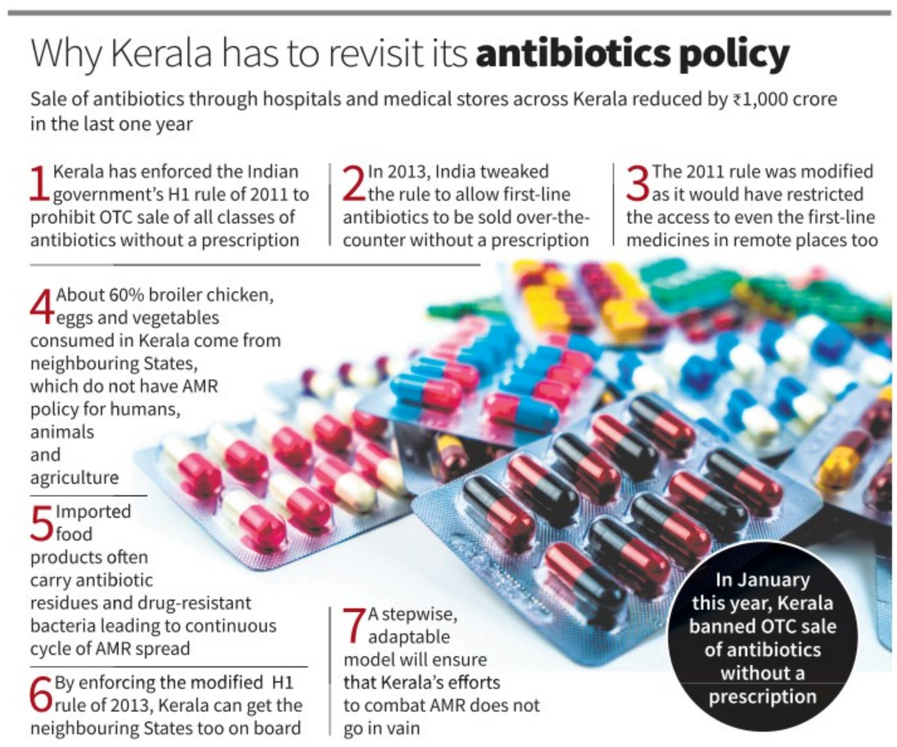
Can Kerala's policy to limit antibiotics misuse reduce AMR?

Kerala imports at least 60% of broiler chicken, eggs and vegetables from neighbouring States, many of which have no AMR regulations in place for humans, animals and agriculture

R. Prasad

With the successful launch of Operation Amrith (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health) to completely stop the over-the-counter sale of antibiotics without prescriptions by the end of 2024, Kerala has seen a sharp decline in the irrational use of antibiotics in people. According to media reports, there has been a sharp fall of Rs.1,000 crore in the sale of antibiotics through hospitals and medical stores across Kerala in the last year.

In early January this year, Kerala became the first State in the country to ban the over-the-counter sale of antibiotics without a prescription. By doing so, it was enforcing the Indian government's 2011 H1 rule to prohibit OTC sale of antibiotics without a prescription. The 2011 H1 rule prohibits the sale of all antibiotics – first, second and third-line – without a prescription. Even when the Indian government in 2013 tweaked the rule to allow first-line antibiotics to be sold over-the-counter without a prescription, Kerala enforced the 2011 H1 rule. The 2011 rule was modified by the Indian government to allow the sale of first-line antibiotics as a complete ban on OTC sales for all classes of antibiotics would have caused more harm than good – it would have greatly restricted access to even the first-line medicines, especially in remote places where doctors are not always available. Kerala was able to enforce the 2011 H1 rule as it has a high doctor-patient ratio, availability of doctors in most places, and vastly different healthcare-seeking behaviour of the people.



'Limited impact'

"Kerala's proactive measures against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are laudable but the fight against AMR cannot be limited to one State. AMR knows no borders, and Kerala's efforts will have limited impact in reducing antimicrobial resistance unless neighbouring States too adopt similar policies," says Dr. Abdul Ghafur, Consultant in infectious diseases at the Apollo Hospital in Chennai, and Coordinator, Chennai Declaration on AMR. "Kerala should consider adopting the modified H1 rule of 2013, which monitors only second and third-line antibiotics while allowing the sale of first-line antibiotics without a prescription to continue without strict monitoring. This approach would balance the need for antibiotic stewardship with healthcare access and economic considerations, ensuring that Kerala sets a practical and scalable example for other Indian States." Currently, Kerala imports at least 60% of broiler chicken, eggs and vegetables from neighbouring States, many of which have no AMR regulations in place for humans, animals and agriculture. According to the Kerala State Planning Board report 2022-2027, vegetable production in the State meets just 40 % of Kerala's requirement. Similarly, Kerala produces only about 42% of the egg requirement while relying on other States for the balance. As per a June 2023 report in *The Hindu*, Kerala imports nearly 70% of broiler chicken from Tamil Nadu.

"Studies, including my own research, have shown that these imported food products often carry antibiotic residues and drug-resistant bacteria, which enter the human gut and transfer their resistance genes to other bacteria. This creates a continuous cycle of AMR spread, which undermines Kerala's local efforts," he says.

With no other State enforcing the national regulation on antibiotic use in agriculture and poultry, the production and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria will continue to be a major problem in India. With Kerala relying majorly on other States for vegetables, eggs and broiler chicken, the State continues to be vulnerable to the continuous import of antibiotic-laden products. "For Kerala's AMR efforts to have a lasting impact, there are two possible courses of action – Kerala should become self-sufficient and stop importing poultry, eggs and vegetables from other States or it can work to convince the neighbouring States to implement strict AMR action plans," says Dr. Ghafur.

Other States will begin enforcing strict AMR policies only if they can be implemented. The 2011 H1 rule, which prohibits the OTC sale of all classes of antibiotics, will not be implementable by other States. It is for this reason that Kerala has to step back and enforce the modified 2013 H1 rule to get the neighbouring States to enforce the rule and initiate the process of reducing antibiotic use in veterinary and agriculture. "The adoption of such a stepwise, adaptable model will ensure that Kerala's efforts to combat AMR are not in vain and will inspire other States to follow suit," he says. "Once the modified H1 rule is successfully implemented at least in the neighbouring States, these States can progressively work towards a more comprehensive ban on OTC antibiotic sales."

Surviving in India's salt desert

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The Rann of Kutch evolved when waters of the Arabian Sea made incursions into this region 150-200 million years ago. Geological upheavals led to the rise of a landmass that cut off the Kutch basin from the sea. The Little Rann of Kutch lies at the end of the Gulf of Kutch and covers an area of 5,000 sq. km, chiefly in the Surendranagar district of Gujarat.

For most of the year, this landscape consists of vast, barren and white salt flats. A striking alteration occurs when the monsoon sets in, and the Rann turns into a shallow wetland. About 75 elevated pieces of land turn into islands, called bets by the local Agariya and Maldhari communities.

The Little Rann of Kutch is home to the wild ass sanctuary, which is the only remaining habitat of the Indian wild ass (*Equus hemionus khur*), locally called khur. About 6,000 of these sandy and brown creatures live in this area. The terrain they occupy is harsh through most of the year, and the vegetation is dry and xerophytic. Khur, like donkeys and other members of the Asinus subgenus, possesses a remarkable ability to locate sustenance in desolate environments. Their digestive systems are adept at processing even the most arid vegetation. The khur has outlasted predators such as the cheetah and the lion, which were last spotted in this region in the 1850s.

The Indian wild ass, locally called khur, has outlasted predators such as cheetah and lion. GETTY IMAGES

The khur is almost the size of a zebra and lives for 21 years. Stable groups of khur consist of females and their young. Stallions tend to be loners, especially in the breeding season. On the flat terrain of the Rann, they are capable of bursts of up to 70 km per hour. Life can be tough for the mares, as gestation periods are long, 11 to 12 months, and concurrent lactation and pregnancy are sometimes seen.

Back from the brink

The Khur have recently overcome a near-extinction event on account of diseases. The viral African Horse sickness and Surra (caused by the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma evansi* and spread by biting insects) had decimated many herds, and only a few hundred survivors were estimated in the 1960s.

Analysis of the mitochondrial DNA of the khur by scientists at the Government Vidarbha Institute of Science in Amravati has indicated a low level of genetic diversity. This is because of a genetic bottleneck caused by disease outbreaks, which left only a small number of survivors. Thanks to persistent conservation efforts, the population of the khur has shown an upward trend in recent decades.

Conflicts with humans

The salt marsh attracts human enterprise – 30% of India's salt comes from the Little Rann.

Every year, a seasonal migration transforms this mirage-like landscape, bringing in 5,000 families and a surge of heavy vehicular traffic. This influx, coupled with extensive cattle grazing, poses a major threat to the delicate ecosystem and its wildlife. Irrigation canals that bring water to the southern rim of the Little Rann can also add salinity to the soil.

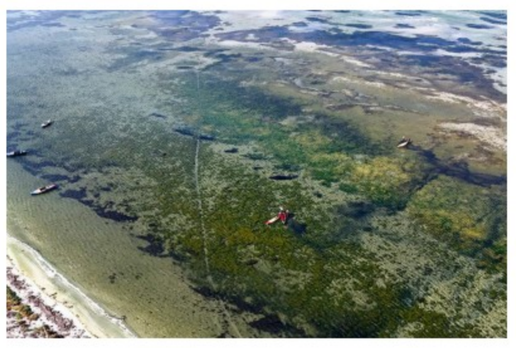
Increased human presence, both for salt farming and agriculture, has led to a dispersal of the khur. Herds are seen in adjoining areas of Gujarat and even Rajasthan. In the process, the wild ass has acquired the reputation of a crop raider. Other animals such as the nilgai and feral pigs cause more damage to crops, but the khur gets disproportionately blamed. A proper separation of the sanctuary's starkly beautiful landscape from human-dominated areas would be better for both.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)

SNAPSHOTS

Walking fish uses appendages as sensory organs

Sea robins are ocean fish particularly suited to their bottom-dwelling lifestyle – six leg-like appendages make them so adept at scurrying, digging, and finding prey that other fish tend to hang out with them and pilfer their spoils. Sea robin "legs" are extensions of their pectoral fins, of which they have three on each side. The "legs" are occasionally used for scratching at the sand surface to find buried prey, without visual cues. A different species of sea robin use their legs for locomotion and probing, but not for digging.



Dead coral skeletons hinder reef regeneration

Researchers found that a network of dead coral skeletons left in place by bleaching events caused critical processes to break down, preventing reefs from recovering. The complex landscape protects seaweed from herbivores, enabling it to colonise the reef and outgrow young coral. Macroalgae compete with coral for space, light and resources. Algae grow faster than coral, so without the balancing effect of herbivory they can overrun a reef, preventing new corals from shading out those colonies that do.

Scientists discover 'pause button' in human development

In some mammals, the timing of the normally continuous embryonic development can be altered to improve the chances of survival for the embryo and the mother. This mechanism slows development and often happens at the blastocyst stage, before the embryo implants in the uterus. This state can be maintained for weeks or months before development is resumed. The molecular mechanisms that control embryonic diapause seem to be actionable in human cells.

Question Corner

Inborn

Do domestic chicks have innate ability to recognise faces?

Multiple behavioural studies have suggested that face selectivity might be an inborn brain feature. Both newborn human babies and newly hatched domestic chicks that have never seen faces before showing spontaneous attraction toward face-like stimuli composed of three dark features representing eyes and a mouth/beak. Researchers uncovered a population of neurons that respond to a face-like visual stimulus, which consisted of two eyes and a beak, in one-week-old chicks that were not previously exposed to faces. By recording single-cell neural responses to face-like stimuli in young face-naïve domestic chicks the researchers revealed a population of neurons selectively responding to a canonical face-like configuration, compared to alternative configurations or isolated facial features. The findings suggest that face-responsive neurons in the brain of young chicks may be innate and emerge in young domestic chicks, and potentially other animals, without any previous face exposure.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Why has the SC clarified POCSO provisions?

What is the Supreme Court's latest far-reaching ruling on child sex abuse material online?

K. Venkataramanan

The story so far:

In a far-reaching verdict that clarifies the penal consequences of dealing with online sexual material involving children, the Supreme Court has underscored that viewing, downloading, and storing of such content are all offences under the Protection of Sexual Offences Against Children (POCSO) Act, and that criminal liability not be limited to creating, uploading and transmitting the material.

How did the matter reach the Court?

An alliance of non-government organisations filed an appeal before the top Court against a Madras High Court order quashing criminal charges against a young man who was sought to be prosecuted for viewing and storing video clips featuring children being exploited for sexual acts. The police had booked him after getting information from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) that the accused had downloaded the material on his mobile phone. The police later filed a charge-sheet under Section 67B of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and Section 15(1) of POCSO.

Section 67B, introduced in the IT Act in 2009, provides for a jail term up to five years for the first offence, and up to 10 years for a subsequent offence that involves publishing or transmitting material depicting children in sexual acts in electronic form. It also allows for a fine of up to ₹10 lakh. Section 15(1) provides for a three-year jail term for those storing child pornographic material for commercial purposes. Subsequently, Section 15 was expanded to include other forms of offences related to online content on child sex abuse. The organisations were aggrieved by the High Court's order invalidating the criminal case, and were allowed to file an appeal, even though they were not parties in the original case.

> 'The possession or storage of child sexual abuse material is a criminal act done in preparation for a further offence'

What did the High Court order say?

The High Court ruled that mere possession or storage any pornographic material was not an offence under POCSO. Further, it said Section 67B of the IT Act only made transmission, publication or creation of material depicting children an offence, but mere watching or downloading of child pornography in the private domain was not punishable. Hence, it quashed the case, holding that no offence had been committed either under POCSO or the IT Act. In other words, possession and storage of such material would not be a crime, but transmission or publication would be an offence.

How did the top Court deal with the ruling?

The Supreme Court held that the High Court decision was erroneous. It proceeded to clarify the scope of the various offences under Section 15 of POCSO, which had been amended in 2019 to penalise various acts relating to child sexual abuse material. It explained that the amended section provided for three distinct offences relating to sexually exploitative material concerning children. Section 15(1) penalises the failure to delete, destroy or report any child pornographic material found to be stored or in possession of any person with an intention to share or transmit it. Sub-section (2) makes it an offence to transmit, propagate, display or distribute child pornography. The third limb of the section seeks to punish storage or possession when done for commercial purposes.

What is 'constructive possession'?

The Supreme Court has invoked the concept of 'constructive possession' to explain the severity of the offence after the word "possession" was included in addition to "storage" in the 2019 amendment to the section on child pornography. It termed the possession or storage of child sexual abuse material as an "inchoate" offence, a criminal act done in preparation for a further offence. It explained that "constructive possession" extended the concept of possession beyond physical control to situations where an individual has the power and intention to control the contraband, even if not in immediate physical possession. "...wherever a person indulges in any activity such as viewing, distributing or displaying etc. pertaining to any child pornographic material without actually possessing or storing it in any device or in any form or manner, such act would still tantamount to 'possession' in terms of Section 15 of the POCSO, if he exercised an invariable degree of control over such material...," the court said.

What are the court's suggestions?

The principle that underpins the decision is that POCSO is a special legislation enacted to punish aggravated forms of offences related to sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Arguing that the term 'child pornography' trivialises the element of exploitation, the court has suggested the use of the term 'child sexual exploitative and abuse material' (CSEAM) instead.

How will Nasrallah's killing impact West Asia?

Why is the assassination of the Secretary-General of Hezbollah significant? Why is Israel pounding Lebanon? What is the reason for Israel taking on Hezbollah? What is the status in Gaza? Why is Israel looking beyond its borders? Why is there a fear of the conflict expanding?

Stanly Johny

The story so far:

It's been almost a year since the latest Gaza war began. And now, Israel has shifted its focus towards its northern border with Lebanon. Over the past week, Israel has carried out massive bombardments in Lebanon targeting Hezbollah, killing at least 700 people and displacing more than 1,00,000. Among the dead was Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary-General of Hezbollah.

What preceded the air strikes?

The air strikes followed explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies in Lebanon, which hit hundreds of Hezbollah fighters. Hezbollah, in retaliation, fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, including a ballistic missile which was intercepted over Tel Aviv. The U.S. and France called for a ceasefire, but Israel quickly ruled out the proposal. The Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, says his army will continue to fight "until meeting its objectives" in Lebanon, and achieving "total victory" against Hamas in Gaza.

What is the Hezbollah?

The Hezbollah was formed as a Shia resistance organisation in 1982, with help from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), in the aftermath of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in the same year. Israel sent troops to Lebanon to force the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of the country. While Israel managed to force the PLO to relocate from Lebanon to Tunisia, and carved a buffer in southern Lebanon, the war led to the rise of militant Shia resistance, which turned out to be a long-term security challenge for Israel. The Shia community had historically been marginalised in Lebanon where power was divided between the Maronite Christians (for whom the Presidency was reserved) and Sunnis (Premiership). The Shias reorganised themselves under Hezbollah, which built a sprawling political, military and social network that's deeply entrenched in Lebanon's state and society. The group has a political party which has parliamentarians, a social wing that caters to the lower strata of society, and a powerful military unit, backed by Iran, which has fighters and short, medium and long-range missiles.

> Israel wants to weaken Hezbollah, and turn them away from the border region using heavy fire power

Major escalation: Women fleeing the Israeli air strikes, react to the news of the death of Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, on September 28. AP

Why are Israel and Hezbollah fighting?

The raison d'etre of Hezbollah is resistance against Israel. Destruction of "the Zionist entity" has been one of the goals mentioned in Hezbollah's manifesto. The group, which is termed a terrorist organisation by both Israel and the U.S., takes credit for forcing Israel to end its occupation of southern Lebanon in 2000, 18 years after it invaded Lebanon. Last time Israel and Hezbollah fought a full-scale war was in 2006 when Israel invaded Lebanon after a Hezbollah cross-border raid. The trigger for the latest flare-up was the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack in Israel, in which at least 1,200 people were killed. When Israel launched its retaliatory war on Gaza, Hezbollah started firing rockets into Israel "in solidarity with the Palestinians". In response, Israel started bombing Lebanon. Ever since, a slow-burning war continued to rage on the Israel-Lebanon border, which displaced some 70,000 Israelis from the border region. The escalation came on July 30 when Israel killed Fuad Shukr, a top Hezbollah commander, in an air strike in Beirut. Hezbollah stepped up its rocket attacks. Earlier this month, Israel said enabling the displaced citizens to go back to their homes is one of the objectives of the war. Then came the pager explosions, which were followed by air strikes.

How powerful is Hezbollah?

Israel sees Hezbollah as a mortal enemy. Hezbollah's weapons include Fateh ballistic missiles with a range of 250 km and Sayyad surface-to-surface missiles (up to 100 km) and C-802 anti-ship missiles (120 km). It also has anti-tank missiles, artillery rockets and tens of thousands of short range rockets such as Bukan, Katyusha, Falaq and Almas. In terms of conventional might, this may not be a match for Israel. An undeclared nuclear power, Israel is the most powerful military force in West Asia, which enjoys the support and protection of the U.S., the world's most powerful country. But Hezbollah is not a conventional force. It's a highly armed guerrilla army with conventional weapons and asymmetric tactics, which had hurt Israel in the past. Since 2006, Hezbollah has rebuilt its weapons stocks many times more. But Hezbollah's response to Israel's attacks have so far been limited. Hezbollah, either by conscious decision or by limitations, chose to fire short-range rockets into Israel in response to the air strikes. But the assassination of Nasrallah, which Hezbollah has confirmed, is the heaviest blow yet. Nasrallah is credited to have built Hezbollah to what it is today.

What does Israel want?

After almost a year of fighting in Gaza, Israel has not met any of its declared objectives – the decimation of Hamas and the release of the hostages. Israeli troops have killed more than 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza and turned the enclave into an open refugee camp. Israel is practically stuck in the Gaza quagmire – without something that can be shown to the public as 'victory', Mr. Netanyahu, on whose watch the October 7 attack unfolded, can't end the war. If he ends the war through a ceasefire deal with Hamas, his government could collapse (his far-right allies have threatened to withdraw their support). But Hezbollah says as long as the Gaza war goes on, it would fire rockets into Israel. Mr. Netanyahu can't accept a ceasefire in Gaza, but wants to stop the Hezbollah attacks. Faced with no easy solutions, Israel decided to escalate the conflict with Hezbollah. Israel wants to degrade Hezbollah's capabilities, and turn them away from the border region. The fire power Israel used over the past week can be comparable to Israel's bombing of the Egyptian air force in 1967. Israel also carried out targeted air strikes at Hezbollah leaders, killing at least four commanders besides Nasrallah.

What next?

Israel's leadership has ruled out a ceasefire on the Lebanese border. It's not clear yet whether Israel would launch a ground invasion into Lebanon. Here, Israel faces a dilemma. Hezbollah is far more powerful than Hamas and at this point of the conflict, nobody is deterring anybody. Iran's proxy might is not deterring Israel. Israel's fire power is not deterring Hezbollah and the Houthis. And Hezbollah's rockets are not deterring Israel from pounding Lebanon. This was a conflict loop, which could break into an escalatory ladder, triggering an all-out war. Then came the Nasrallah killing.

From October 7, Hezbollah was fighting a limited war needling Israel in the north but wary of escalation. But once Israel decided to escalate, it went in with full force. There cannot have been a greater provocation than the killing of the Secretary General. It is as if Israel is pushing Hezbollah to fight a larger war. The next question is what will Hezbollah (and Iran) do? Will the group fold under pressure or regroup itself and fight the Jewish state with full force? Its choice will decide whether West Asia will slide into an all-out war.

Was animal fat present in Tirupati laddus?

What did the Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) of the National Dairy Development Board find in the Tirupati laddus? What are the adulterants? Why is good baseline data, specific to Indian conditions, necessary?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

Laddu prasadams from the temple town of Tirupati have left a bad taste after reports that the ghee from cow milk, the traditional ingredient, may have been adulterated with fat from multiple sources including beef tallow.

What are the allegations?

A technical report from the Centre for Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) of the National Dairy Development Board, which analysed samples of ghee supplied to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, the manager of the shrine, found that it was adulterated.

There was fat from soya bean, sunflower oil, rapeseed oil, linseed, wheat germ, maize germ, cotton seed, fish oil, coconut and palm kernel fat, palm oil, beef tallow and lard.

While allegations that adulterated ghee was being used for preparing the prasadam have been swirling for months, it was the first time that animal fat – from beef and pigs – was mentioned by no less than Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, at a public forum.

> Triglyceride patterns in cow ghee differ from the ghee made from goat milk, lard, soya bean or other vegetable oils

In protest: Members of Hindu organisations stage a demonstration at the entry point to Tirumala hills, in Tirupati on September 26. FILE PHOTO

What's the process to find out if milk fat is adulterated?

Milk fat, like all organic fats, consists of triglycerides. They are glycerols connected to fatty acids and the carbon chains that constitute them are a characteristic feature of triglycerides. There are 'short chain,' 'medium chain' and 'long chain' fatty acids defined by the number of carbon atoms in these chains. Milk fat has more than 400 structurally different fatty acids and can combine in various ways to form thousands of triglyceride molecules. Thus, triglyceride patterns in cow ghee differ from the ghee made from goat milk, lard, soya bean or other vegetable oils. Given that cow ghee is expensive, adulterating it with cheaper fat is an age-old practice, and an array of methods have evolved to detect adulteration. For precision, the state-of-the-art method in the dairy industry is the use of gas chromatography. This method can be used to separate the chemical constituents of a sample mixture made up of organic compounds. These machines are expensive and can cost ₹30-40 lakh but are the standard in reputed outlets. Much like an electrocardiogram generates a signal of oscillating waves meant to represent heart beats, the result of a gas chromatography analysis of a sample of ghee is a characteristic wave form that shows the proportion of different types of triglycerides. Pure cow ghee has a characteristic pattern different from vegetable oil or lard (pig fat). For adulteration analysis, the German scientist Dietz Precht, in 1991, came up with a set of five equations. Each of them generated an 's value' (standard value) and can be used to determine specific adulterations. The value from s1 points to adulteration with soya bean, sunflower oil, rapeseed, fish oil; s2 to coconut and palm kernel fat; s3 to palm oil and beef tallow; s4 to lard and s5 to the total adulterated fat in a given specimen. For a ghee sample to be pure cow ghee, all five of these values must lie in a specified range that's within a window of 3 or 4 points to 100. However, even if one of these values lies outside the prescribed range, it points to the presence of a 'foreign fat.' This process is the standard protocol recommended by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) and followed in reputed Indian laboratories such as CALF.

What did the analysis of fat in the Tirupati laddus find?

Two samples of cow ghee were tested. All of the values (s1-s5) in both samples were outside their prescribed ranges. For example, in one of the samples, the s3 value –linked to palm oil and beef tallow – was 22.43, out of the prescribed range of 95.9 to 104.1. However this alone doesn't indicate the presence of beef tallow. "Although individual s-values (i.e. s1, s2, s3 & s4) are more sensitive for certain foreign fats than the general s-value (s5), the positive result obtained in only one s-value does not allow to draw a conclusion on the type of foreign fat," says a review of the Precht method in the *Indian Journal of Dairy Science* in October 2023 by K.D. Aparanthi, of the Anand Agricultural University, and co-authors. "...In actual practice, particular foreign fat generally remains unknown, since most of the foreign fats are identified by the method as a group and not as a particular foreign fat (except lard). [The] same problem also arises when a blend of foreign fats is mixed in milk fat." Moreover, the number in this case, s3=22.43, doesn't denote a percentage or the quantity of a substance. Under the prescribed tests, the intrusive 'foreign' fat can be calculated when the 's' values exceed 100. This isn't the case for s3, here.

Are there established methods to differentiate the sources of fat?

There are mathematical ways to interpret the individual 's' values to determine the presence of specific kinds of fat but these haven't been specified in the CALF report. While these methods were developed for European cows, applying it to Indian bovines could require changing the 's' values. These can be calculated only after a database on the biochemistry of ghee in Indian cows, which may have different genetics, and Indian tallow is known. "There is wide biological variation within a species. However, using spectography methods we can accurately detect the nature and percentage of adulterants provided good baseline data, specific to Indian conditions, is available," Dr Madhusudhan Rao, scientist at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad told *The Hindu*.

PROFILES

Sri Lanka's symbol of change

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

The Left leader, who revived the JVP through grassroots mobilisation and expanded its reach by forming an alliance, promised change to Sri Lanka's disenchanted voters, who were increasingly critical of the country's political establishment, and emerged victorious in the September 21 election

Meera Srinivasan

Hundred percentage sure, said Anura Kumara Dissanayake, Opposition legislator from Colombo, days before Sri Lanka's September 21 presidential contest, when a visiting journalist asked if he could win. His calm confidence could have had only one basis – the certainty that he embodies the change Sri Lankans emphatically want.

When Mr. Dissanayake, popularly 'AKD', entered left politics as a student in the late 1980s, becoming the country's President one day was probably not on his mind. It was the youngster's hostility to the state and ruling class that led him to the student wing of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a party of Marxist-Leninist origins. He came from a small farmer household that was not politically active. His father was an office aide in the government Survey Department and his mother, a homemaker.

A first cousin, whom he looked up to as an older brother, was already in the party. Mr. Dissanayake was 20 at the time, when his cousin was killed in the Ranasinghe Premadasa government's counter-terror operations against the JVP's second armed insurrection in 1988. The following year, he saw his parents' modest home in Anuradhapura in the island's North Central province torched for association with the party. Even as the JVP's second uprising against the state saw brutal killings, including of political opponents, ordinary government employees and dissident left leaders, the state's response was many times more lethal.

It was this firsthand experience of "state terror" that strengthened Mr. Dissanayake's resolve to remain in the JVP, a party whose political profile has since changed considerably.

In its first insurrection in 1971, the JVP had an anti-imperialist and socialist character, aiming to overthrow capitalism and transform political, social and economic institutions. By the 1980s, however, the JVP took a decidedly more Sinhala-nationalist turn. It vehemently opposed accommodation of Tamil political claims for self-rule and India's involvement as an arbiter, when the country's ethnic conflict exploded into war, following the anti-Tamil pogrom of July 1983. Falsely implicated by the United National Party government of J.R. Jayewardene in the riots, the JVP was banned for some years.

After its second revolt was crushed and the party subsequently legalised, the JVP's course shifted in 1994 when the new leadership joined the political mainstream entering Parliament. Mr. Dissanayake himself secured a seat in 2000 and served as Minister of Agriculture in the government of President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga between 2004 and 2005. In 2014, Mr. Dissanayake was named leader of the JVP, succeeding Somawansa Amarasinghe. He was to lead what remained of the party that had suffered two significant splits by then – from reactionary elements in 2008, and when a faction more to the left broke away in 2012.

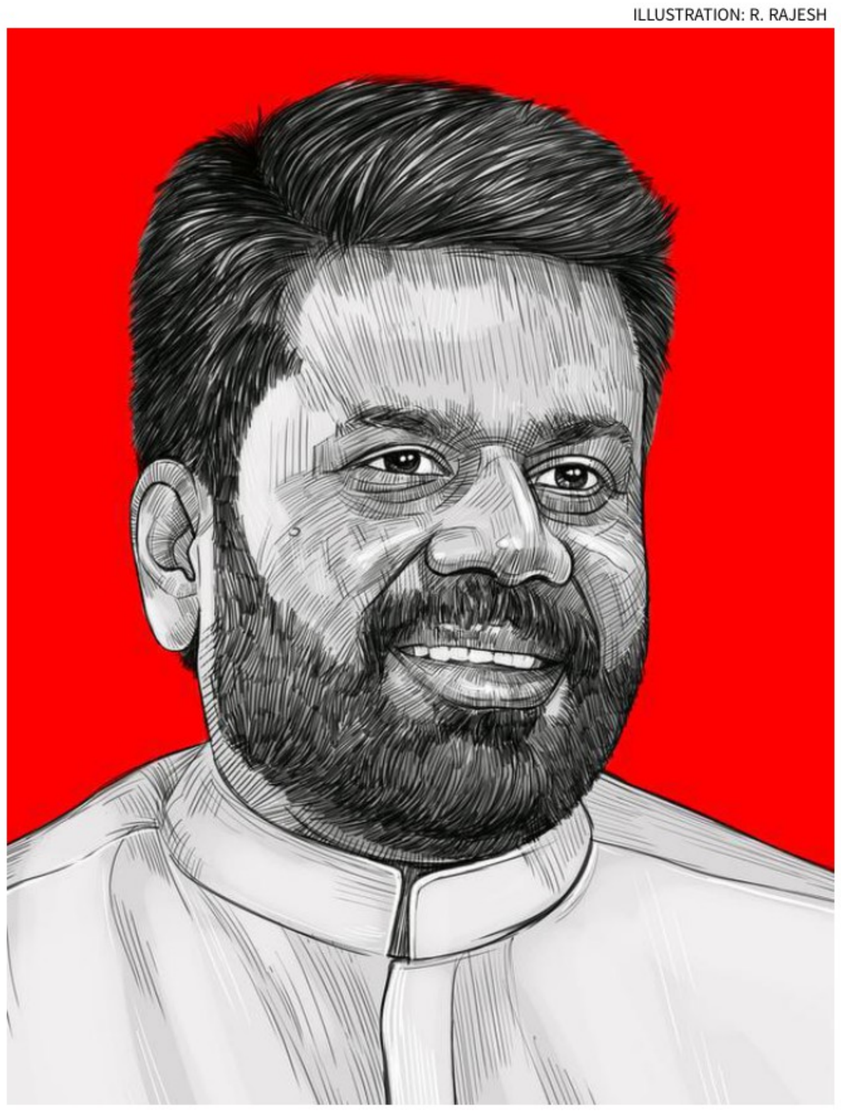
'Clear-headed'

Speaking of Mr. Dissanayake's leadership style, long-time comrade Vijitha Herath notes: "AKD is a very clear-headed decision maker. He is very good at factoring in multiple views and taking the best decision quickly, in real time." Mr. Herath, who is now Foreign Minister, was also his batchmate at the public University of Kelaniya, where Mr. Dissanayake graduated in physical sciences.

'AKD', 55, is widely regarded as a compelling and informed speaker. His parliamentary interventions in eloquent Sinhala often drew notice. He made a mark in 2018, as a fierce critic of President Maithripala Sirisena's abrupt sacking of then Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe that left the country in a crippling 52-day political crisis. At the time, Mr. Dissanayake argued that the JVP and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), then the main grouping representing Tamils of the north and east, should work together, for they represent sections in the country's south and north that have "suffered most due to the actions of the repressive state".

The JVP had six MPs in the 225-member House then. Realising that the party's political fortunes depended on both expanding its base and widening its appeal, Mr. Dissanayake set up the National People's Power (NPP) Alliance in 2019, with over two dozen small political groups, professionals, academics and activists. It marked the beginning of a third force, outside Sri Lanka's two traditional political camps led by the centre-left Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the centre-right United National Party and their offshoots. Youth from different parts of the country's Sinhala-majority areas were drawn to the NPP that offered promise of change.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



The momentum prompted Mr. Dissanayake to run for President in 2019, against Gotabaya Rajapaksa. But the excitement around his campaign did not translate into votes. He received 3.16% of the votes cast. In the 2020 general election, the JVP-led NPP's parliamentary presence reduced by half. The outcomes of the two polls were humiliating for the NPP, as well as the JVP that had bet on it for its political future. Rivals ridiculed them as the "3% party", but they kept up their opposition in Parliament. Meanwhile, the JVP went back to its strength – cadre-based grassroots mobilisation through relentless political organising; while also stepping up its engagement with the Sinhala diaspora.

At one level, especially visible in Colombo, the NPP was courting businessmen, artists, professionals and the middle classes who drew comfort from its new social and class breadth, and moderated political pitch. At another, it was drawing flak from leftists for evading structural issues and abandoning socialist politics. "Labels have always given wrong perceptions. Left politics is not a bad thing, it is a good thing. Some people demonise this. That is why we say we are focused more on working for the majority of our people, rather than on labels," Mr. Dissanayake told *The Hindu* in December 2023. What critics see as ideological backtracking, the party sees as political flexibility.

'System change'

No one saw 2022 coming. A staggering people's uprising, the toppling of a powerful Executive President, and a clarion call for "system change". The Janatha Aragalaya or people's struggle was a headless movement of diverse participants, bound by a shared frustration with the establishment. Almost all political actors in opposition, including the NPP, were sympathetic, but knew the youth were wary of being politically aligned. The protest wanted the entire Parliament out, signalling a loss of faith even in the Opposition. There was a vacuum. A marginal presence in a tainted Parliament, some years of solid groundwork, and the dissipation of the Aragalaya offered the NPP a chance to catapult into prominence. And it jumped at it.

The NPP's election campaign began early, and their rallies stood out for their impeccable arrangements and huge crowds. Departing from his formal attire in Parliament, Mr. Dissanayake went to the rallies in jeans and smart casual shirts tucked in with sleeves folded up to the elbow. His speaking style – beginning in a low, composed tone and then building up a compelling narrative against past rulers – clicked. To many Sri Lankans, especially younger people, the NPP was the only option that seemed different, and 'AKD' was the candidate furthest from the political elite they despised.

The Alliance became their vehicle of hope and Mr. Dissanayake, their symbol of change.

THE GIST

- Dissanayake became a Member of Parliament in 2000 and served as Minister of Agriculture in the government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga between 2004 and 2005
- In 2014, Dissanayake was named leader of the JVP, succeeding Somawansa Amarasinghe. He was to lead what remained of the party that had suffered two significant splits by then
- In 2019, Dissanayake set up the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, with over two dozen small political groups, professionals, academics and activists

Old hand, new role

Shigeru Ishiba

The former Defence Minister takes over as Japan's PM at a time when the country is grappling with persistent economic and growing social challenges

Sruthi Darbhamulla

Amid scandals and turmoil, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has selected former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba as its new leader. On Tuesday, he will also take on the role of Prime Minister, as the LDP holds a majority in Parliament.

Of late, the ruling dispensation, which has been in power in Japan for most of the post-War era, has seen much turbulence due to internal conflicts and corruption, leading to a plunge in its approval ratings. Japan is also dealing with high inflation and a stagnant economy. Mr. Ishiba has promised to clean up the party, bolster the economy and address national security challenges.

The 67-year-old, who will take over as Japan's 102nd Prime Minister, is no political novice, having been in politics for four decades.

Mr. Ishiba was born on February 5, 1957 in the rural Tottori prefecture, where his father was Governor. He graduated in 1979 with a law degree from Keio University and joined Mitsui Bank. After a short banking career, Mr. Ishiba began his political career in Tottori prefecture, and was elected to Parliament in 1986. He has held several positions in government, and served as Defence Minister as well as Agriculture and Forestry Minister.

He has been a member of the LDP for most of his political career, save a four-year stint in an Opposition party from 1993 to 1997. Within the LDP, Mr. Ishiba is a part of the more progressive wing, often serving as a dissenting voice and inviting the ire of his colleagues with his views running counter to the party line. He was a vocal critic of former Prime Ministers, including outgoing PM Fumio Kishida. His approach reportedly made it difficult for him to garner the 20 votes needed to qualify as a candidate for Friday's LDP election, with support mainly coming from rank-and-file members of the LDP.

Mr. Ishiba has been viewed as an "intellectual heavyweight" in the party. He is considered an expert on national security policy and has sought to bolster Japan's security against external threats, such as Russia, China and North Korea. He has also advocated for lower dependence by the Japanese government on its ally, the U.S, for security support, and called for greater oversight over bases used by U.S forces stationed in Japan. He has suggested the creation of an Asian NATO and a say in how the U.S would use nuclear weapons in Asia.

Reform plans

During his campaign, he mooted changes in governance, suggesting that some Ministries be moved out of Tokyo so as to boost development in other regions. He has also proposed a new agency to oversee the construction of emergency shelters across the country, which is susceptible to natural disasters.

Mr. Ishiba has previously questioned the increased use of nuclear energy and advocated for renewable energy, but has since softened his stance on the matter, saying he would let some reactors remain operational in Japan.

The LDP, which was formed in 1955, has invited public wrath of late. It drew flak for its association with the controversial Unification Church, which has been characterised as a cult by detractors. Further, there were allegations of under-reporting of political funding by party factions over several years, which led to the dissolution of five out of six factions. Japan's economy faces other challenges–a 30-year-high inflation, ballooning food prices, a weak yen, and stagnant growth. Other issues include an ageing population and challenges within the labour market.

Outgoing PM Kishida declared last month that he would not be seeking re-election, stating in a press conference that it was necessary to show the people that the LDP will change, ahead of the legislative election set to take place before October 2025.

Now, it's Mr. Ishiba's responsibility to bring in those changes and make the party and the government better-equipped to tackle the economic and social challenges Japan is facing.

The survivor as an icon

Gisèle Pelicot

The 72-year-old French woman, who had been drugged and raped by her husband, Dominique Pelicot, and at least 50 others, says, 'I don't know if I will ever rebuild myself'

Sudipta Datta

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

"We are all Gisèle." There has been an outpouring on the streets of France in support of 72-year-old Gisèle Pelicot, who had been drugged and raped by her husband, Dominique Pelicot, and at least 50 others, in their home for over a decade. In an extraordinary act of courage, Ms. Pelicot waived anonymity and requested that the trial, which began early September, be made public.

She wants to raise awareness of the use of drugs to commit abuse, and as one of her lawyers said, hopes that "shame will change sides". Spilling out of the chamber of horrors is the fact that Dominique Pelicot, 71, filmed Ms. Pelicot being sexually assaulted a 100 times as she lay in a drug-induced stupor; the evidence, thousands of photographs, was stored in Dominique Pelicot's computer under the label 'abuses'.

In her testimony, as reported in *Le Monde*, *The Guardian* and other newspapers, Ms. Pelicot said she "was sacrificed on the altar of vice" and treated "like a rag doll, like a garbage bag". The assault came to light in 2020 after Dominique was caught filming up skirts of women, and the police searched his computer. Ms. Pelicot, who is since divorced but still uses her marriage name, said the discovery felt like everything she had built for five decades had fallen apart. In court, the husband pleaded guilty. "I put her to sleep, I offered her, and I filmed," his lawyer quoted Dominique after his arrest.

Trust was betrayed at so many levels, but nothing can be more appalling than the admission that between 2011 and 2020, at their home in Mazan in Provence, he crushed sleeping pills and anti-depressants, and mixed them in her evening meal or wine. Then, he invited men, contacted over an online chatroom, which has since shut down, to rape and sexually abuse her. There were dos and dont's once the men entered the home – they couldn't smell of deodorants or cigarette smoke.

Parents of three children and several grandchildren, the Pelicots were considered an "ideal couple". Pointing out that she had no idea she was being drugged, Ms. Pelicot complained of neurological problems; doctors ruled out it was Alzheimer's. She also suffered from gynaecological issues, suffering from sexually transmitted diseases.

Brave stand

But Ms. Pelicot's brave stand of opening up her private nightmare to the public and her plaintive cry – "I don't know if I'll ever rebuild myself" – has struck a chord among hundreds of women across the world. She has been hailed as a "feminist icon" and a "heroine".

The trial is expected to go on till December; if convicted of aggravated rape, Dominique and the 50 others face 20 years in prison under French laws.

French women have marched on the streets, holding up banners, saying, "Rapist we see you, victim we believe you." It has raised yet again several questions about women's bodies and autonomy, the lack of concern in society about rampant sexual violence, misogyny, patriarchal mindsets, a culture of rape and violence.

The 50 men on trial, aged between 26 and 73, along with her husband include a local councillor, nurses, a firefighter and a civil servant, The *Guardian* reported. At least 30 more could not be identified.

Women activists have pointed out that with seemingly "ordinary" men carrying out such brazen acts, it shatters the myth of monster rapists. They are also seeking a change in how media covers rape. "Shame must change sides," as the protest slogan says; and for that to happen, the alleged perpetrators should be called out, not the victim.

Misogyny has long roots, historian Mary Beard had traced in her book, *Women & Power: A Manifesto*, but every generation of women usually paves a better way for the next. Ms. Pelicot has done her bit; it is France's turn to mend its abysmal record in stopping sexual abuse and a prevalent rape culture as women activists have underscored.

NEW YORK

India deserves a permanent seat at UN Security Council: Bhutan PM

REUTERS

India with its economic growth and leadership of the Global South deserves a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said. He also expressed "deepest" gratitude to India for its "support" for his country's journey of graduating from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category. PTI

BRUSSELS

Church must learn from abuse victims, Pope says on Belgium trip

AFP

Pope Francis said on Saturday the Catholic Church must learn from victims of child sexual abuse. Replying at a meeting in Brussels to a scripted question by a representative of an organisation helping abuse victims, the pontiff acknowledged the "atrocious suffering and wounds" caused by the Church. AFP

KATHMANDU

At least 66 killed, 69 missing after flooding and landslides in Nepal

AFP

Flooding and landslides caused by continuous rainfall has killed at least 66 people in Nepal, and a further 69 are missing, officials said Saturday. Rain has been pouring down since Friday night and is expected to continue over the weekend. More than 3,010 people have been rescued while major roads have been blocked. AP

MADRID

Nine dead, 48 missing as migrant boat sinks off Spanish island

AFP

A boat carrying migrants capsized off Spain's Canary islands overnight, killing at least nine people and leaving 48 missing. 84 people were on board and 27 were rescued after rescuers responded to a distress call received shortly after midnight from off El Hierro, one of the islands in the archipelago. AFP

Hassan Nasrallah, the cleric who lived and died in war

Taking over its leadership in 1992, Nasrallah transformed Hezbollah from a ragtag guerrilla group into the most powerful non-state actor in West Asia, with political, social and military units

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

When Hassan Nasrallah, then 32, became the Secretary-General of Hezbollah in 1992, after the assassination of the group's leader Abbas al-Musawi, one of the first things he did was to order rocket attacks into northern Israel. A car bomb hit the Israeli embassy in Turkiye, killing a security officer while a suicide bomber blew himself up at the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to push the Palestine Liberation Organisation out of the country. It did so, but the war led to the rise of Hezbollah, which turned out to be a greater security challenge than the PLO. In 1992, when Israel killed Musawi, what it wanted to do was to deal a lethal blow to Hezbollah. But Musawi's successor sent a message in unmistakable terms that he would double down on Hezbollah's resistance.

The rocket attacks and embassy bombings were just the beginning of Hezbollah's violent resistance under Nasrallah, who would turn the organisation, which was largely a guerrilla militia when he took over, into a multifaceted movement, with a military wing that is more powerful than the Lebanese Army. On September 27, Nasrallah, who led Hezbollah for more than three decades, was assassinated by Israeli airstrikes on Beirut.

Clear goal: After taking over Hezbollah, Hassan Nasralla's focus was on resistance against Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. AP

Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs", Hezbollah said in a statement on Saturday, confirming his death. Martyrdom is a central ideological and religious theme of Shia political activism – the supreme sacrifice. In September 1997, after Nasrallah's eldest son Muhammad Hadi was killed in an Israeli ambush near Mlikh, a mountain village in southern Lebanon, he said, "I am proud to be the father of one of the martyrs".

Born and raised in a working-class suburb of Beirut, Nasrallah undertook his religious studies in Baalbek in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and then in Iran. When the Iranian revolution shook the region, which gave a new meaning to Shia political Islam, and radicalised youths across the region, Nasrallah was 19. He saw the power of religion and martyrdom. He witnessed the devastation brought by the civil war in Lebanon. He also saw the aggression of Israel in 1982, which had hit the marginalised Shia community the hardest. He was initially part of the Shia Amal party. When the radical sections of Amal split from the party and formed Hezbollah, Nasrallah joined them.

Focus on resistance

After he assumed leadership of the movement, his focus was on resistance against Israel's continuing occupation of southern Lebanon, where they had carved a buffer called 'security zone'. Hezbollah, with rocket attacks and ambushes, turned the security zone into an 'insecurity zone'. Amid growing violence, in 2000, 18 years after it started the Lebanon invasion, Israel decided to withdraw troops from the south. Nasrallah termed it "the first Arab victory against the Zionist entity".

In 2006, a cross-border raid by Hezbollah triggered the wrath of Israel, which launched a ground invasion and massive air strikes. The war went on for a month, causing great damage to Hezbollah. But Israel, despite its firepower, failed to defeat Hezbollah or deter its rockets from southern Lebanon. When Israel withdrew from Lebanon after reaching a ceasefire with Hezbollah, the group claimed another victory.

Another pivotal moment of Nasrallah's leadership was the civil war in Syria, an ally, where the regime of Bashar al-Assad was threatened by a multitude of rebel and jihadist groups, including the Islamic State. "If Syria falls in the hands of America, Israel and the *takfiris* (a reference to IS and al-Qaeda jihadists), the people of our region will go into a dark period," Nasrallah said in 2013, confirming that Hezbollah was fighting in Syria.

When Israel launched its retaliatory war on Gaza following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack in Israel, Hezbollah started firing rockets into Israel "in solidarity with the Palestinians". Ever since, Hezbollah has been fighting a limited war. But earlier this month, Israel decided to escalate the war dramatically. Within days, Israel launched back-to-back attacks without letting Hezbollah recover from the effects.

On September 27, by assassinating Nasrallah, Israel dealt the heaviest blow to Hezbollah. Nasrallah led the group in wars. And he was killed in a war. Israel might have calculated that Hezbollah would take time to recover from its punches. Hezbollah says it will continue its "holy war against the enemy". West Asia will remain on edge.

Lavrov emphasises Russia's nuclear status at UN speech

Associated Press
NEW YORK

Russia's top diplomat warned on Saturday against "trying to fight to victory with a nuclear power," delivering a UN General Assembly speech packed with condemnations of what Russia sees as Western machinations in Ukraine and elsewhere – including inside the United Nations itself.

Three days after Russian President Vladimir Putin aired a shift in his country's nuclear doctrine, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov accused the West of using Ukraine – which Russia invaded in February 2022 – as a tool to try "to defeat" Moscow strategically, and "preparing Europe for it to also throw itself into this suicidal escapade."

Sergei Lavrov

"I'm not going to talk here about the senselessness and the danger of the very idea of trying to fight to victory with a nuclear power, which is what Russia is," he said.

The specter of nuclear threats and confrontation has hung over the war in Ukraine since its start. Shortly before the invasion, Mr. Putin reminded the world that his country was " one of the most powerful nuclear states," and he put its nuclear forces on high alert shortly after. His nuclear rhetoric has ramped up and toned down at various points since.

On Wednesday, Mr. Putin said that if attacked by any country supported by a nuclear-armed nation, Russia will consider that a joint attack.

He didn't specify whether that would bring a nuclear response, but he stressed that Russia could use nuclear weapons in response to a conventional assault that posed a "critical threat to our sovereignty."

China holds air and sea patrols near flashpoint reef

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese naval and air forces conducted patrols around the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea on Saturday, after a slew of tense encounters with the Philippines in the disputed waterway in recent months.

The patrols coincided with joint exercises carried out by the U.S., Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Philippines in Manila's exclusive economic zone and within the South China Sea. Beijing claims almost the entire South China Sea.

Beijing said the training around the shoal included "reconnaissance, and air-sea patrols".

Back-to-back Russian strikes on medical centre kill 8 persons in Ukraine's Sumy

Associated Press
KYIV

Two consecutive Russian attacks on a medical centre in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy killed at least eight persons on Saturday morning, officials said.

The first strike killed one person. Russia attacked again while patients and staff were evacuating, Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said.

Local officials in Sumy said Shahed drones were used in the attack. Eleven other persons were wounded.

Sumy lies 32 km from Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since August 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

No let-up: The compound of a hospital hit by a Russian kamikaze drone in Sumy in Ukraine on Saturday. REUTERS

Ukraine's air force said it shot down 69 of 73 Russian drones launched overnight as well as two of the four missiles. City authorities in Kyiv said around 15 drones had been shot down over the Ukrainian capital and its outskirts.

In Kryvyi Rih, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's home city, local officials said on Saturday that a man's body was found under the rubble of an administrative building hit by a Russian missile on Friday, bringing the death toll from that attack to four.

In Russia, the Defence Ministry said on Saturday that air defenses overnight had shot down four Ukrainian drones over the Belgorod region and one over the Kursk region, both areas bordering Ukraine.

Sport

IOC weathers Army's challenge; Railways breezes past Odisha

HOCKEY

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Former champion Indian Oil Corporation knows a thing or two about handling pressure situations. Against an Army side, playing, probably at its best, IOC showed its class by scripting a 3-2 win in the semifinals of the 95th MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup All-India hockey tournament here on Saturday.

Earlier, in the other last four clash, defending champion Indian Railways outplayed Odisha 4-0, courtesy a hat-trick by Joginder Singh, to enter the final.

Hat-trick hero: Joginder was at the forefront of Railways' easy win over Odisha. M. VEDHAN

The tie that drew all the attention was the one between IOC and Army. After a tug-of-war that didn't yield any goal in the first two quarters, IOC struck out of the blue in the third.

A sliding push home by Aarman Qureshi off a pass from the left from Gujinder Singh, put the team ahead. IOC struck again at the start of the fourth quarter when Sumit Kumar pushed a rebound home off a penalty corner. At that stage, things looked difficult for Army. Cyril Lugun's goal through a stroke gave the required push for Army. It was the phase when Army was at its menacing best, attacking IOC from both flanks, earning three penalty corners. It, however, couldn't convert any of them.

IOC's third goal through a Gujinder stroke didn't deter the spirit of Army one bit. It earned three back-to-back penalty corners, out of which the last one resulted in a stroke. Cyril's conversion brought back the required spirit in the Army camp but IOC was in no mood to relent.

The results (semifinals):
Railways 4 (Joginder Singh 1, 38 & 43, Yuvraj Walmiki 16) bt Odisha 0.

IOC 3 (Aarman Qureshi 36, Sumit Kumar 46, Gujinder Singh 55) bt Indian Army 2 (Cyril Lugun 47, 57).

Treesa & Gayatri's campaign ends in the semifinals

MACAU OPEN

Press Trust of India
MACAU

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand's campaign in women's doubles at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament came to an end as they lost to Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Pei Shan and Hung En-Tzu 17-21, 21-16, 10-21 in the semifinals in Macau on Saturday.

Domination

This is the Chinese Taipei pair's third victory over the Indians this year.

Reigning Beauty claims the Totaram's Trophy

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old grey filly Reigning Beauty, owned and trained by Mr. Leo D' Silva and ridden by K.G. Likith Appu, claimed the Totaram's Trophy, the feature event of Saturday's (Sept. 28) races here.

Jockey Likith Appu achieved a significant milestone in his career by riding his 40th winner aboard Reigning Beauty. With this victory, he graduated from his apprenticeship and officially earned his status as a professional jockey.

1. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (DIV. I): ANNHILATOR (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Shooting Star (Abhay Singh) 2, That's My Mission (Mukesh) 3 and Country's Maximus (Akshay K) 4. 3/4, 4 and 3-3/4. 1m 14. 52s. ₹14 (w), 10, 16 and 16 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 39, SHW: 11 and 18, FP: 41, Q: 34, Tanala: 114. Favourite: Annhilator.

Owners: M/s. Srikanth Badruka, Rama Seshu Eyunni & Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. STAR OF GWALIOR PLATE (DIV. I): STAR CRUISE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Tortilla Chip (P. Sai K) 2, Glimmer Of Hope (Shivansh) 3 and Protocol (Md. Ismail) 4. 3/4, 3 and 1/2. 1m 16. 05s. ₹110 (w), 31, 18 and 26 (p). SHP: 45, THP: 95, SHW: 94 and 22, FP: 1,154, Q: 248, Tanala: 9,141. Favourite: Tortilla Chip.

Owner: Mr. Ch. Naga Nancharayya. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

3. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (DIV. II): EXCLUSIVE BLACK (Md. Ismail) 1, Iconic Star (Akshay K) 2, Ashwa Yashvir (Gaurav) 3 and N R I Desire (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run: Freedom Touch. 3-1/4, 3-1/4 and Short Head. 1m 14. 73s. ₹179 (w), 27, 13 and 12 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 38, SHW: 138 and 29, FP: 609, Q: 133, Tanala: 662. Favourite: Iconic Star.

Owner: Mr. G. Narasa Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

4. BELOVED PRINCE PLATE (DIV. III): SKYWARD (Gaurav Singh) 1, Bellingham (B.R. Kumar) 2, Linda (Akshay K) 3 and Opera Queen (Likith Appu) 4. Not run: Jolly Jester. 3-1/4, Nose and 6-3/4. 1m 15. 08s. ₹31 (w), 12, 15 and 10 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 41, SHW: 17 and 14, FP: 174, Q: 71, Tanala: 203. Favourite: Linda.

Owner: Mr. B. Vijay. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

5. CHARMINAR CUP: AMIGO (Mukesh Kumar) 1, See My Attitude (Akshay K) 2, China Town (Vivek) 3 and Caraxes (Shivansh) 4. Not run: Anemoi. 8-1/4, 4 and 1/2. 1m 41.18s. ₹18 (w) 21 and 10 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 39, SHW: 11 and 21, FP: 41, Q: 21, Tanala: 65. Favourite: Amigo.

Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Sultan Singh rep. Sohna Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Magan Singh.

6. TOTARAM'S TROPHY: REIGNING BEAUTY (K.G. Likith Appu) 1, Happy Soul (Surya Prakash) 2, Terenga (Akshay K) 3 and Coming Home (Sonu K) 4. 5-3/4, Neck and Neck. 1m 27. 20s. ₹36 (w), 13, 25 and 12 (p). SHP: 96, THP: 43, SHW: 20 and 136, FP: 722, Q: 287, Tanala: 1,889. Favourite: Terenga.

Owner & Trainer: L.D' Silva.

7. STAR OF GWALIOR PLATE (DIV. II): PLANET SUPER (Ajay Kumar) 1, Dali's Champion (Rafique Sk.) 2, Exponent (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Bien Pensant (Surya Prakash) 4. Not run: Mademoiselle and Stoli. 3-3/4, 2 and 2-1/2. 1m 16. 55s. ₹13 (w), 10, 14 and 12 (p). SHP: 100, THP: 33, SHW: 12 and 35, FP: 119, Q: 84, Tanala: 300. Favourite: Planet Super.

Owner: Mr. T. Amarender Reddy. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹16, 262 (14 tkts.), 30%: 5, 420 (18 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 20, 949 (2 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 26, 705 (1 tkt), (ii) 120 (254 tkts.).

STUNNING KNOCK

England levels ODI series with huge win over Australia

GETTY IMAGES

Liam Livingstone (62 n.o.) paved the way for England's 186-run win over Australia in the fourth ODI at Lord's on Friday. **The scores**: England 312/5 in 39 overs (Brook 87, Duckett 63, Livingstone 62 n.o.) bt Australia 126 in 24.4 overs (Head 34, Potts 4/38, Carse 3/36). **PoM**: Brook. (Match reduced to 39 overs). Five-match series level 2-2.

SPIN TROUBLE

Jayasuriya, Peiris put Sri Lanka on the cusp of an innings win

AFP

Sri Lanka was on the verge of a 2-0 series sweep after spinners Prabath Jayasuriya, *in pic*, and Nishan Peiris wrecked New Zealand in the second Test in Galle on Saturday. **The scores**: Sri Lanka 602/5 decl. vs NZ 88 in 39.5 overs (Jayasuriya 6/42, Peiris 3/33) & 199/5 in 41 overs (Conway 61, Williamson 46, Blundell 47 batting, Phillips 32 batting).

ROMPING HOME

Rickleton, Hendricks fifties power SA to facile win over Ireland

AFP

Ryan Rickelton, *in pic.*, and Reeza Hendricks struck half-centuries as South Africa defeated Ireland by eight wickets in the first of a two-match T20 series in Abu Dhabi on Friday. **The scores**: Ireland 171/8 in 20 overs (Campher 49, Rock 37, Kruger 4/27) lost to South Africa 174/2 in 17.4 overs (Rickelton 76, Hendricks 51). **PoM:** Rickleton.

BANG BANG

Palmer first PL player to score four goals in first half of a match

REUTERS

Chelsea playmaker Cole Palmer has become the first player in the 32-year history of the Premier League to score four goals in the first half of a match. The England international's flurry of goals came in a 20-minute span (21st, 28th, 31st and 41st minutes) against Brighton at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

Second day's play washed out, infrastructure under scrutiny

After morning rain forces the cancellation of the day's action at Green Park, questions raised over the merit of allotting Tests through rotation to venues lacking state-of-the-art facilities

Damp affair: Intermittent rains and a wet outfield meant no play was possible on day two. SANDEEP SAXENA

BANGLADESH IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
KANPUR

Inclement weather played spoilsport once again as day two of the second Test between India and Bangladesh was called off without a ball being bowled here at the Green Park Stadium on Saturday.

It has been raining on and off in the city over the last two days. Only 35 overs were possible on the first day after bad light, and showers brought an early end to proceedings on Friday.

On Saturday, it was raining steadily in the morning when both sides came to the ground as scheduled. However, it is understood the teams were told that it would take a significant amount of time for the ground staff to prepare the venue after the rain eased, following which players left the ground.

The rain finally stopped around 10 a.m., but the covers on the ground did not come off.

At around 11.15 a.m., three Super Soppers were employed to remove the water on the covers for about an hour.

For the next few hours, there was hardly any rain – barring one or two spells of intermittent drizzles, which wasn't heavy enough to stop a game had it been underway – but the covers couldn't be taken off. Eventually, at 2 p.m., the play was called off.

The fans who turned out in large numbers and enthusiastically waited for the day's play to start had to settle for the sight of bright blue covers covering the whole turf.

They blared the horns, beat drums, and even cheered enthusiastically whenever the camerapersons came near the galleries to capture the crowd, only to return without seeing a single ball of action.

The episode once again raised questions about the merits of the rotation system for allotting Tests despite certain venues lacking the necessary modern infrastructure. The Green Park stadium, built in 1945, doesn't possess the latest drainage system that some of the other venues in the country have.

While it is difficult to fight against the vagaries of nature, if the facility had the infrastructure that is available in Bengaluru, Chennai, or Mumbai, there could have been a possibility of a few hours of action at least.

The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru has a state-of-the-art SubAir system, which ensures puddles don't form and drains standing water within 20 minutes. Once the rain eases, the game can commence in 40 minutes.

Similarly, at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, the TNCA decided to re-lay the outfield with soft drainage, utilising a multi-layer of soil and perforated PVC pipes to drain excess water. A similar system is also in use at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

Last month, the TNPL final at Chepauk was delayed due to rain, but the match started 40 minutes after the rain stopped, and a full T20 encounter took place.

Meanwhile, having invited Bangladesh to bat first, India will want to return to the field as soon as possible. The home team will hope to bundle out the visitor – which is on 107 for three – as quickly as possible and bat only once in this match before trying to press for victory in the third innings.

For now, Sunday's forecast looks slightly better, even if there is a possibility of one or two spells of rain.

Rohit Sharma's men would desperately be hoping for some bright sunshine as they seek a 2-0 series triumph, which will increase their lead in the World Test Championship points table.

Informal discussion likely on BCCI succession plan

Amol Karhadkar
BENGALURU

Dalmiya and Dhumal are likely to be elected unopposed as IPL governing council members. FILE PHOTOS

While the 18-point agenda for the BCCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting, to be held here on Sunday, will be routine, discussions here have been abuzz with a "succession plan" for Jay Shah, the incumbent BCCI secretary, who is set to take over the ICC chair on December 1.

While three names – that of treasurer Ashish Shelar, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal and Delhi and District Cricket Association chief Rohan Jaitley – have been thrown so far, a surprise candidate from an association from west zone could spring up in the next couple of months. It is understood that the BCCI hierarchy will gauge affiliates' response for the possibility of a relative newbie in cricket administration to be handed major responsibility.

Things, however, will start moving rapidly on the succession plan only after Shah steps down.

It is likely to happen only towards the end of November, so the formal AGM will not discuss the issue.

Coming back to the agenda, Avishek Dalmiya and Dhumal are set to be elected unopposed as the members of the IPL governing council. Similarly, V. Chamundeswarnath is set to be re-elected as the Indian Cricketers' Association' nominee in the governing council.

Meanwhile, in a closed-door ceremony, the new NCA campus on the outskirts of Bengaluru was inaugurated on Saturday evening.

It was followed by an exhibition game of cricket among the affiliates and BCCI office-bearers.

Suryakumar to lead

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Suryakumar Yadav was on Saturday appointed as India captain for the upcoming three-match T20I series against Bangladesh, which will also witness the return of pacer Mayank Yadav.

Mayank has been on the sidelines after suffering an injury during the IPL 2024.

The T20I squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakaravarthy, Jitesh Sharma, Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana and Mayank Yadav.

Prolific Chhetri climbs to the top of the pile

ISL

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The Sunil Chhetri juggernaut motors along uninterrupted. With a slick penalty in the 51st minute, Chhetri wrote himself into the history books.

The 40-year-old scored his 64th goal in the Indian Super League to become the sole highest goal-scorer in the tournament's history. With a brace in the previous fixture, Chhetri sat alongside Bartholomew Ogbeche as the joint-highest goal-scorer.

Chhetri's big moment was the icing on the cake for Bengaluru FC, which outclassed Mohun Bagan Super Giant 3-0 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday. BFC registered a third win in as many matches, while Bagan slipped to a first loss. Under steady rain, BFC broke through in the 10th minute, when Nikhil Poojary headed a corner towards Edgar Mendez. The Spaniard slotted his first ISL goal.

Familiar tale: Chhetri, with his 51st-minute goal in BFC's win over Bagan, became the highest goal-scorer in the ISL. K. MURALI KUMAR

In the 20th minute, Chhetri turned provider. Chhetri did well to control a sharp, low pass from Mendez, laying it on a platter for Suresh Wangjam. The trailing Wangjam rushed in to get a foot in and slot BFC's second. A nervous jersey tug on Mendez by centre-back Dippendu Biswas was the final nail in the coffin for Bagan. Chhetri stepped up to the spot to make it a night to remember.

The results:
BFC 3 (Mendez 9, Wangjam 20, Chhetri 51-pen) bt MBSG 0.
At Bhubaneswar: Odisha FC 2 (Mauricio 20, Fall 42) bt Jamshedpur FC 1 (Fall 62-og).

IPL GC tweaks retention rules

Amol Karhadkar
BENGALURU

Indian Premier League franchisees can retain up to six cricketers – with no restriction on nationality and including one uncapped cricketer – ahead of the 2025 player auction, to be held later this year. Besides, the Right to Match (RTM) card option has been reintroduced.

The player retention rules were finalised by the IPL Governing Council during its meeting here on Saturday.

While the BCCI statement did not specify purse reductions for each retention, according to a BCCI official privy to proceedings, the policy of "pay more to retain more" has been devised.

A team could well see its auction purse reduced by a whopping ₹75 crore on five players, with only ₹45 crore in its kitty for the IPL auction.

Over and above these five retentions, one uncapped player – including those Indian cricketers who have made their last international appearance five years ago – can be retained for a purse reduction of ₹4 crore.

The BCCI statement confirmed the uncapped rule, which paves the way for Chennai Super Kings to retain M.S. Dhoni as an uncapped player.

In a move to curb overseas players picking and choosing participation in IPL, the IPL GC has imposed severe curbs.

"Any overseas player will have to register for the Big Auction. In case the overseas player doesn't register, then he will be ineligible to register in the following year's player auction," stated the BCCI.

"Any player who registers in the player auction and after getting picked at the auction, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season, will get banned from participating in the tournament and player auction for two seasons."

The GC also introduced match-fees of ₹7.5 lakh for each of the 12 players in the league stage.

The compensation will be over and above the contract fees for a player.

Liverpool on top, City drops points

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Mohamed Salah fired Liverpool to the top of the Premier League as the Egypt star's penalty sealed a 2-1 win at struggling Wolves on Saturday.

Arne Slot's side sits one point clear of second placed Manchester City, which was held to a 1-1 draw at Newcastle while, Arsenal squandered a two-goal lead before securing a 4-2 victory over Leicester.

Harry Kane went off injured as Bayern Munich was held 1-1 at home by champion Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

The results: Premier League: Newcastle 1 (Gordon 58-pen) drew with Manchester City 1 (Gvardiol 35); Nottingham Forest 0 lost to Fulham 1 (Jimenez 51-pen); Chelsea 4 (Palmer 21, 28-pen, 31, 41) bt Brighton 2 (Rutter 7, Baleba 34); Brentford 1 (Mbeumo 1) drew with West Ham 1 (Soucek 54); Everton 2 (McNeil 47, 54) bt Crystal Palace 1 (Guehi 10); Arsenal 4 (Martinelli 20, Trossard 45+1, Ndidi og-90+4, Havertz 90+9) bt Leicester 2 (Justin 47, 63); Wolves 1 (Ait-Nouri 56) lost to Liverpool 2 (Konate 45+2, Salah 61-pen).
Serie A: Udinese 2 (Kabasele 35, Lucca 83) lost to Inter Milan 3 (Frattesi 1, Martinez 45+3, 47); Genoa 0 lost to Juventus 3 (Vlahovic 48-pen, 55, Conceicao 89).

Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 1 (Pavlovic 39) drew with Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Andrich 31); RB Leipzig 4 (Sesko 10, 15, Openda 46, Simons 57) Augsburg 0; Wolfsburg 2 (Wind 20, Amoura 68) drew with Stuttgart 2 (Millot 32, Undav 90+7).
On Friday: Serie A: AC Milan 3 (Morata 38, Hernandez 41, Pulisic 43) bt Lecce 0.
Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 4 (Guirassy 44, 75, Can 62-pen, Nmecha 81) bt Bochum 2 (Bero 16, De Wit 21).

Poorva claims triple jump gold with meet record

ATHLETICS

Y.B. Sarangi
PATNA

Poorva Sawant clinched the women's triple jump gold with a new meet record even as the men's pole vault final was postponed for the day as the pit reached the venue late, on the first day of the Indian Open under-23 athletics meet at the Patliputra Sports Complex here on Saturday.

Having partially recovered from a knee issue, Poorva began with 12.89m. When the competition resumed after a spell of heavy rain, she leapt 13.25m in her final attempt to erase Sharvari Parule's mark of 13.16m.

"The situation was similar to the 2022 National Open meet. Mentally, that experience helped me," said Poorva.

Poorva bettered Sharvari's mark. R.V. MOORTHY

Tanya Chaudhary, who has a season best of 61.57m, won the hammer gold with her first attempt of 54.42m, a new meet mark.

Animesh Kujur (10.38) bettered Pranav Gurav's meet record (10.39) in men's 100m semifinals.

The results, finals: Men: 10000m: 1. Puneet Yadav (Har) 30:10.96, 2. Ankit Deshwal (Har) 30:21.71, 3. Manish Rajput (UP) 30:24.12; **Triple jump:** 1. Narpinder Singh (Pun) 15.60m, 2. Pradeep Kumar (UP) 15.36m, 3. Dablu Roy (WB) 15.33m; **Shot put:** 1. Amandeep Singh (Pun) 17.88m, 2. Sanyam (Har) 17.75m, 3. Aniket (Utk) 17.47m.
Women: 400m: 1. Devyani Bamahendrasi (Guj) 53.53, 2. Rashdeep Kaur (Pun) 54.29, 3. Mugada Sireesha (AP) 54.63; **1500m:** 1. Thota Sankeertana (Cht) 4:33.53, 2. Laxmipriya Kisan (Odi) 4:34.01, 3. Amandeep Kaur (Pun) 4:34.24; **10,000m:** 1. Anchal Jaiswal (UP) 36:25.12, 2. Svati Pal (Chd) 36:27.72, 3. Beby (UP) 36:28.62.
100m hurdles: 1. Moumita Mondal (WB) 13.71, 2. S. Akschida (TN) 14.17, 3. Muskan Rana (Del) 14.34; **Triple jump:** 1. Poorva Sawant (Mah) 13.25m (NMR, OR: Sharvari Parule, 13.16m, 2023), 2. Merymukta Soreng (Odi) 12.73m, 3. Rishika Awasthi (UP) 12.63m; **Hammer:** 1. Tanya Chaudhary (UP) 54.42m (NMR, OR: Sheetal, 54.21m, 2021), 2. Mital Solanki (Guj) 52.74m, 3. Grima (Raj) 49.34m; **Shot put:** 1. Shiksha (Har) 14.66m, 2. Kavita Kumari (Raj) 14.25m, 3. Vanshika Shekhawat (Raj) 13.32m.

INBRIEF

Sinner 'surprised' at WADA's decision to appeal

Jannik Sinner said on Saturday that he was "disappointed and surprised" after the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appealed the decision to clear him in his steroid case, seeking a ban of up to two years.

TN's Sekar and Tanvi crowned men's, women's champions

Sekar Patchai and Tanvi Jagdish of Tamil Nadu were crowned champions in the men's and women's technical categories on the first day of the Palkbay Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Challenge 2024, the National SUP Championship, organised by Quest Academy at Pirappanvalasi Beach, Ramanathapuram, on Saturday. The event and held under the aegis of Surfing Federation of India. Karnataka's Akash Pujar walked away with a SUP Technical mixed groms title. Sekar successfully defended his title with a timing of 21:08.48 mins in the 4km race while Tanvi crossed the finish line with a timing of 28:16.29 minutes to snatch the title from former champion P. Monika of Tamil Nadu, who completed the race in 30:32.63 minutes.

LIVE TELECAST

India vs Bangladesh: 2nd Test, day 3, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.
England vs Australia: 5th ODI, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
Ireland vs South Africa: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 9 p.m.

India's dominance at Olympiad, a pleasant surprise: Pragg

"I knew if we gave our best we would be the favourites to win gold, but I didn't think we would win 10 out of 11 matches"

P.K. Ajith Kumar

The Indian men's dominance at the Chess Olympiad was complete. The difference between India and the nearest rival was four points, that is something like winning a five-match cricket Test series in Australia 4-0.

The maximum points a team could have scored was 22 points. India scored 21.

One of the men – or the boys, rather – responsible for India's easy ride to the gold in Budapest, R. Praggnanandhaa, says such dominance came as a pleasant surprise. "We were hoping to win the gold, but I didn't think we would be able to dominate the event to such an extent," he told The Hindu on Saturday.

Team work works: Praggnanandhaa says the entire squad managed to keep its focus and give its best. AP

"I knew if we gave our best we would be the favourites to win the gold, but there were other strong teams like the United States, China and Uzbekistan as well as some underdogs, so I didn't think we would win 10 out of 11 matches."

The 19-year-old attributes the success to team work. "Though we didn't have time for a training camp in India before the Olympiad, as we were all playing in different tournaments, we have been playing together for some time, including the last Olympiad in Chennai," he says. "We managed to keep our focus and give our best. Even the last match (which was a formality) we won 3.5-05."

He didn't have as good a tournament as he expected, and after beginning well by winning both his games. Then he had a series of draws, but he ensured that India scored enough points on the second board.

"What really matters is that we won the gold, and we would not have settled for anything less," he says. "I had some difficult games to save, like the one against Uzbekistan, which I did. Yes, my games could have been better."

The Olympiad proved a double delight for Praggnanandhaa, as the gold-medal winning women's team included his elder sister R. Vaishali. "The women's team played really well and won all their first seven matches," he says.

"Then they had a setback but came back strongly to win the gold. Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal were especially good and scored some important wins; they won the individual gold too."

Praggnanandhaa says it is nice to see more corporate sponsorship coming into chess. "I have gained a lot from the support I get from the Adani Group, which is very important as I am continuously playing tournaments and training," he says.

Australia's Vishwa eager to shine in 'home' Test

Vishwa. TARUN SHASTRY

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

After completing a 3-0 clean sweep against Australia U-19 in the Youth ODI series on Thursday, the India U-19 team will lock horns against the visitor in the Youth Test series, which will kick off at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Monday.

It would be a beautiful homecoming for Australia's leg-spinner Vishwa Ramkumar, who has Indian ancestry as his parents relocated to New Zealand from Chennai before settling in Melbourne.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of a training session, the 18-year-old, who is studying commerce at the University of Melbourne, spoke about his roots, experience training with the Chennai Super Kings earlier this year, and the "local" support for his first Test match.

"My parents are originally from Chennai, they grew up here. They were here until they were 30 and then they moved to Auckland initially. I was born in Auckland but grew up in Melbourne, Australia.

Back to the roots

"We moved to Melbourne when I was about two months old. So my family roots are definitely in Chennai."

"I was training with CSK in March this year, it was an amazing experience. Seeing M.S. Dhoni, Ravindra Jadeja, and other senior pros, how clean they hit the ball and how skillful they are was a good eye-opener on what to expect at the highest level.

"I got a chance to talk with Mike Hussey... we had that connection and spoke a bit.

"I've got relatives here and it's nice to have them around. You know you've got some support here away from home.

" I am sure my grandma, uncles, and aunts will come and watch me play. It's a special feeling coming back."

Gulveer wins 5000m gold in Challenge Cup with new national record

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's Gulveer Singh on Saturday set a new national record en route to winning the men's 5000m gold in the Yogibo Athletics Challenge Cup of World Athletics Continental Tour at Niigata, Japan. Gulveer clocked 13:11.82 seconds to win the gold. The 26-year-old broke his own national mark of 13:18.92s set during the Portland Track Festival earlier this year.

India downs Nepal to make SAFF under-17 football final

Press Trust of India
THIMPHU (BHUTAN)

India defeated Nepal 4-2 to progress to the final of the SAFF under-17 football championship here on Saturday.

India scored through Vishal Yadav (61st and 68th minutes), Rishi Singh (85th) and Hemneichung Lunkim (90+5), while Subash Bam (81st) and an own goal by Mohammed Kaif (89th) allowed Nepal to reduce the margin.

In the title clash on Monday, India awaits the winner of the second last-four match between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

DIRECTORATE MAHARASHTRA TOURISM

Eknath Shinde
Chief Minister

TOURISM FOR TOMORROW

Maharashtra launches new tourism policy aimed at the State's future growth and development

A 10-year vision to attract an investment of Rs. 100,000 crores, create 18 million jobs and double the tourist arrivals

Aids & Incentives
▮ Capital investment incentives. ▮ Interest subsidy incentives. ▮ CGST tax reimbursement. ▮ Other financial incentives for micro, small, and medium enterprises. ▮ Electricity duty exemption. ▮ Stamp duty and registration fee exemptions. ▮ Additional incentives for women entrepreneurs, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes, and differently abled individuals.

Encouraging participation in fairs & expos
▮ Incentives for tourism stakeholders to participate in domestic and international tourism exhibitions, travel shows, and marts. ▮ Incentives for organizing rural tourism fairs/annual fairs.

Promoting new & existing tourism services
▮ Incentives for youth tourism. ▮ Incentives for agriculture, caravan, and adventure tourism. ▮ Incentives for sustainable & wellness tourism.

Boosting research & development
▮ Incentives for skill development programs. ▮ Incentives for research in the tourism/hospitality industry. ▮ Incentives for information and communication technology empowerment.

Preserving culture & environment
▮ Incentives for reviving rare arts, culture, and cuisine. ▮ Incentives for environmental tourism certification.

Opening new paths to empowerment & excellence
▮ Incentives for employing differently-abled individuals. ▮ Tourism awards to honour excellence in the industry

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Eknath Shinde, Chief Minister
Devendra Fadnavis, Dy. Chief Minister
Ajit Pawar, Dy. Chief Minister
Girish Mahajan, Tourism Minister

Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, Govt. of Maharashtra